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Wednesday March 20 1996

Albania D3.50	Hong Kong HK\$25	Qatar QR 1.00
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# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR  
46.505

TV chefs: the new popstars?

## Scrambled egos

G2 with European weather



Comment

## John Redwood: Why I love Britpop

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Society

## How the police want to help the mentally ill

G2 pages 10/11

# Secret note exposes safety fear

## Budget cuts hit privatised industry

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

**S**AFETY in the privatised industries — including railways, electricity, coal and nuclear power — is being endangered by cuts in the Health and Safety Commission's budget, according to a confidential letter written by the commission's chairman. The letter, prepared for despatch to the Environment Secretary, John Gummer, and passed to the Guardian, warns that unless recent spending cuts are reversed, the commission will conclude that we cannot meet all the expectations and requirements that Government, Parliament and the courts are placing on us with the resources now available.

The Health and Safety Executive, the HSE's executive arm, will simply be unable to cope if its budget is not increased, Mr Davies tells Mr Gummer.

The Health and Safety Commission and the HSE are responsible for overseeing safety across British industry, both by investigating large-scale accidents, such as the recent freight crash near Stafford, making snap inspections in factories, and sending policy suggestions to government.

Some of the most high-profile work covers North Sea oil drilling, rail safety and the nuclear industry, as well as mining.

The trade unions have been pressing for years for an increase in the number of on-

Staffing, the letter points out, has been driven down from 4,300 in late 1993 to around 3,900 now, with a further planned cut to less than 3,400 by the turn of the century.

The letter says that even if the request for extra funds, amounting to more than £20 million, is granted, a reduction in the number of inspectors would still be necessary. The leak is especially embarrassing for the Government since John Major yesterday reassured the Commons that privatisation of the nuclear industry would not affect safety standards.

The five-page letter, prepared at a special meeting of the commission on March 13 and due to be despatched this week, also warns that the HSE's programme to encourage investment in health and safety in small business will be undermined by cuts in the commission's budget.

Mr Davies also points out in his letter, prepared as part of the commission's bid to boost £150 million-plus budget, that it needs more resources to grapple with new "staff-intensive responsibilities for regulating chemical and other major hazard plants" — new duties placed on the HSE by the European Union.

Ian McCartney, the shadow employment spokesman, to whom the letter was originally passed, said yesterday: "This letter reveals the big privatisation — new duties placed on the HSE by the European Union.

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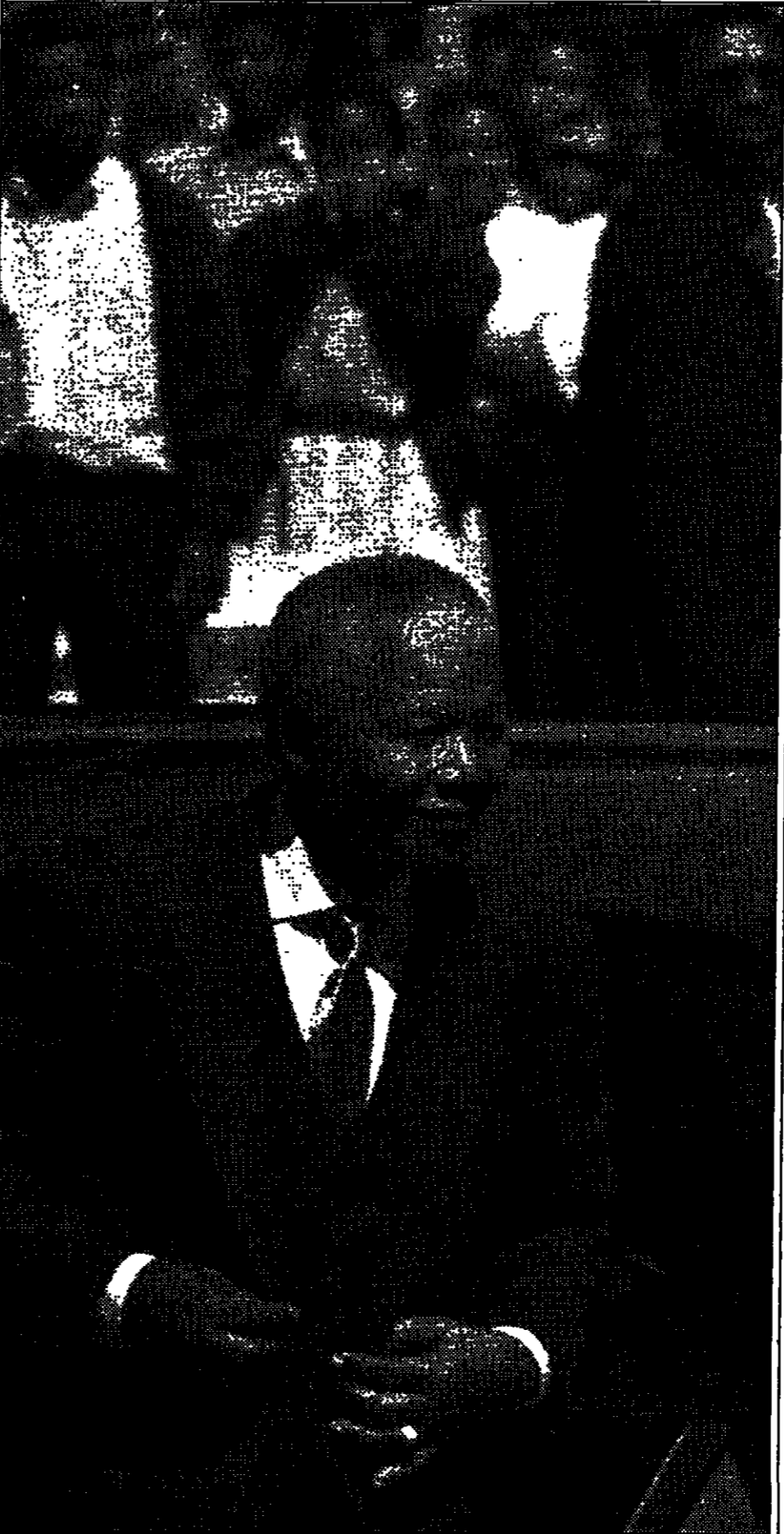


site inspectors, claiming that staff cuts have been allowing employers to cut safety corners in the drive for profits.

In the letter's most damaging passage, Mr Davies spells out the need for extra resources to handle additional demands. "We are also anxious to respond effectively to the Government's requirement that we should protect and maintain safety standards, especially in the newly privatised and liberalised industries. Health and safety in the railway and gas industries in particular (though not exclusively) are high on the agenda of public concern."

Extra funds are specifically needed "to maintain effective regulatory regimes for the newly privatised industries of rail and coal, where there is, as you know, considerable pressure from Parliament and the public for assurances about safety standards."

## Judge steps in to grant Mandela divorce



Nelson Mandela outside the Johannesburg court yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: KOBUS BOODENSTEN

# Rape ruling sets legal precedent

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent

**A** MAN who refused to use condoms was jailed for four years for raping five prostitutes yesterday, in what is believed to be the first case of its kind.

A jury accepted that the prostitutes withdrew their consent to sex with the married businessman when he insisted on having unprotected intercourse.

His counsel, Nadine Radford QC, told the court his wife had discovered his activities and now always accompanied him on his travels.

Ms Maguire said: "We're concerned that this man is not considered a danger to the public only because he is accompanied by a woman who is acting as his gatekeeper."

The court heard that Shaw took time off work to travel to Sheffield and Nottingham to find prostitutes. His wife and teenage daughter knew nothing about his exploits.

A 23-year-old victim said she begged Shaw to use a condom but he told her to "shut up." Afterwards he gave her £100, five times her usual charge.

Prostitutes commonly refuse sex unless a customer wears a condom, but few rape cases involving prostitutes reach the courts. Traditionally, prosecutors have felt that juries might be reluctant to accept that a woman who sells sex can withdraw her consent.

Two prostitutes last year brought the first private prosecution for rape in England, after the police refused to act. The defendant was convicted and sentenced to 14 years in prison.

Judge Anthony Balston, who presided over that case at Maidstone crown court, said that prostitutes were particularly vulnerable to rape and needed more protection than other women. He said he had no doubt the defendant had thought he was safe because the woman would be unable to go to the police.

**'His advisers are telling him to do things which are political suicide. I hope he does resign. We might get someone sensible'**

— Patrick Minford Treasury 'wise man'



## Clarke told to go

Michael White Political Editor

**T**HE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, was yesterday urged to resign his stewardship of the economy by one of his own Treasury advisers, the unconstrained monetarist, Professor Patrick Minford.

Prof Minford, one of the Treasury's seven "wise persons" who offer the Chancellor independent — and

often conflicting — economic advice, has long since written off the election, blaming the ebullient Mr Clarke for excessive caution on everything from tax cuts to public borrowing and interest rates.

But the outspoken Thatcherite economist of Liverpool University had not called for his boss to walk the political plank before yesterday's interview with the Birmingham Post. In it he likened the Chancellor to

"some sort of undertaker. His advisers are telling him to do things which are political suicide. I hope he does resign. We might get someone sensible in his place."

Mr Clarke, currently on a trade mission to South Africa, is the object of a whirling campaign on the Tory right wing. It suggests he will resign from the Cabinet if, as expected, it endorses a referendum on the prospective European single currency.

Few of Mr Clarke's political allies believe it for a moment. They endorse what John Major's team publicly proclaims: that voters will realise how well the economy has been restored.

Labour last night seized on Prof Minford's remarks. The shadow chief secretary, Andrew Smith, said: "It is quite extraordinary, for an adviser in his position to call for a politician as senior as Kenneth Clarke to resign."

One Tory MP called Prof Minford "a nutter."

Prof Minford is used to such abuse. "One warns and one warns; and one is dismissed as a fool or a madman," he recently wrote.

# Winnie's defence fails as row over cash looms

## David Beresford on the bitter end to a 38-year partnership

**W**INNIE Mandela's defence action brought by her president husband collapsed dramatically yesterday after she sacked her legal counsel in mid-session and asked for a last-minute postponement to hire another.

Nelson Mandela's lawyers immediately protested that the move was "the oldest trick in the book" to stall the proceedings. Judge Frikkie Eloff rejected her request and told her she could either give evidence herself or call witnesses. When she did neither, he granted Mr Mandela a divorce after 38 years of marriage.

The ruling came after two days of evidence that included charges that Mrs Mandela had committed adultery. Mr Mandela, aged 77, had claimed the marriage had irretrievably broken down.

"The position appears to be clear that on the evidence, that was not challenged, the plaintiff is entitled to a divorce. His claim is unanswerable," the judge said.

Seemingly close to tears, Mrs Mandela left the Johannesburg supreme court immediately after the ruling, without looking up.

The South African president sat slumped in his chair and looked depressed as the decree was granted. But earlier he had threatened to disclose more serious "dirty linen" if her lawyers pursued the contention that the apartheid regime's security police were responsible for the collapse of the relationship.

The financial settlement will be dealt with in a further hearing today. Mrs Mandela is claiming half of her husband's estate.

Mr Mandela conceded that

his wife had suffered "gross persecution" and "brutal treatment" at the hands of the police under apartheid. But he told the court: "There were many women in this country who suffered far more" — citing as an example Albertina Sisulu, the wife of his former deputy, Walter Sisulu.

Mrs Mandela's defence collapsed abruptly in the early afternoon when Judge Eloff refused an application for a postponement to allow preparations for the appearances of witnesses, including Paul Erasmus, a former security police officer, and Chief Kalsar Matanzima. Mr Erasmus would testify to police dirty tricks and the chief would argue the need for tribal mediation to save the marriage.

The judge said their testimony could have no relevance to the central issues of whether Mrs Mandela had committed adultery — a charge the defence had not challenged — and whether the breakdown of the marriage was irretrievable.

**Inside**  
 A man has been jailed for 18 months for helping his chronically ill wife commit suicide

**World News**  
 Over 17,000 Serbs remain in the besieged Srebrenica, and NATO planes can pull out of Bosnia this year

**City**  
 Natwest is poised to announce an £800m takeover of Clerical Medical, making it a leading player in the life insurance market

**Comment**  
 The survival of the NHS will demand huge restructuring and job losses unless the rules are changed fast, says Will Hutton

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**G2**  
 Crossword 16; Weather 16; Radio 16; TV 16

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**The Guardian theObserver Premier Newspapers**

Sketch

Ancient custom of verbal runs



Simon Hoggart

It seems only a year ago that we were celebrating National Continence Day, yet here it is again. Like so many ancient British traditions, this one means less than it did. Back in 1994, it was a whole seven days, National Continence Week, and the nation celebrated in style, with balloon races, mass pelvic floor lifting and a grand conference on Women and Continence. No doubt Sir Cliff Richard was involved in some way. ("Leave this house, Heathcliff, and never darken my sheets again!") I suppose people are too busy rushing about nowadays to remember these old customs. This hasn't stopped the Department of Health from holding their Continence Carer of the Year awards. (Who would think of applying? Are there nominees, like the Oscars? ... and now, the bedpan, please!) MPs could have used some of the time during Prime Minister's Questions yesterday. They were all suffering the verbal equivalent, logorrhoea. Mr John Cummings (Lab, Basington) started by asking Mr Major when he would visit Easton. The Prime Minister had no plans to do so. "What a pity," mused Mr Cummings in a near impenetrable Geordie accent. "I'll never know what you missin'."

harrassing flow. Mr Major replied that the DoT had now made the necessary orders and the roads would be built. This reduced Mr Cummings to silence, but much too late. In the time it had taken to ask the question, the department could have held an inquiry, got planning permission, built the roads, and strewn them with the usual McDonald's boxes and Tango cans. Mr Richard Burden (Lab, Northfield) took up the topic of water privatisation. At length. Back in 1989, he said, Michael Howard, now the Home Secretary, but then the minister in charge of water privatisation, had predicted that water privatisation would not be a political issue, nobody would think about it, it would be delivering the goods, so now what with 800 million gallons of water leaking away, who could we blame for the lack of the feel-good factor at least as far as the utility went? One wished someone might solve Mr Burden's problem by devising a simple, easy-to-wear padded garment which could be stuffed in his mouth. The Speaker had had enough. "Questions are getting much too long!" she shouted. But nothing would stop them. The Tories sent Sidney Chapman (Chipping Barnett) into battle. His topic was electric privatisation. Like all the great orators he prefaced his "question" with a few philosophical reflections, in this case about the dangers of having your electricity cut, then moved on to general remarks concerning comparative policies in this regard, cleared his throat, and, after talking for several geological periods, finished with a set of statistics which turned out to be meaningless. As it happens, I got an insight into the Government's unpopularity at Twickenham last weekend. When the FA announced proudly that a new rugby museum had been opened that morning by "the Rt. Hon. Virginia Bottomley," a low but definite boing swept around the stadium. "Twickenham! That shrine to the middle-classes at play! Barbours, silver hip flasks, picnics from the back of Land Rovers! If they are boing ministers, all must be lost.

Water curbs in hot weather will be inevitable, says government report

Paul Brown Environment Correspondent

WATER supplies in England and Wales are not sufficient to satisfy demand, and restrictions will have to be imposed over large areas whenever the weather gets warm and dry. Department of Environment research has shown. It will be impossible to build enough reservoirs or to trap enough rain by other methods to satisfy peak summer demand from households or demands from farmers for extra irrigation, even without the effects of global warming. The extra burdens of climate change will make the situation worse. Paul Herrington, of the University of Leicester, who carried out the research said: "It is clear that there is not going to be enough water to go round. The Government will have to have a series of strategies in place so that water companies can restrict demand. It seems that the expenditure that would be required on new reservoirs to allow people water on demand is just not available, even if it were possible to achieve a building programme on such a vast scale." Mr Herrington, one of the two assessors at the independent commission of inquiry into the water supply in Yorkshire, was commissioned to look at supply requirements up to 2021, both with and without the effects of climate change. Although the annual average increase in water demand is only slightly increased because of climate change, Mr Herrington says it masks the problems of surges in demand caused by heatwaves like the one in the summer of 1995 which caused the Yorkshire crisis. The report says that without climate change, average daily consumption throughout the year will rise from 8,628 million litres a day (ML/d) to 9,593 ML/d by 2021, an increase of 15 per cent. With climate change it is expected to go up to 10,161 ML/d, an 18 per cent increase. During hot weather, average daily demand is already 10,659 million litres. By 2021 this is expected to be 13,509 ML/d, a 26 per cent increase, and with climate change it is expected to rise to 14,429 ML/d or 34 per cent extra.



Water collection at Halifax last summer after a pump failure... could such a scene become more widespread?

PHOTOGRAPH JOHN HOLLINAN

age daily demand is already 10,659 million litres. By 2021 this is expected to be 13,509 ML/d, a 26 per cent increase, and with climate change it is expected to rise to 14,429 ML/d or 34 per cent extra. One of the Department of Environment's predictions for climate change is that Britain can expect longer periods of drought and more hot

spells, so the estimated extra 35 per cent of water required each day would soon exhaust supplies. The two big growth areas for water use are irrigation and domestic consumption. Research shows that in hot weather people wash more, and people are expected to use four times as much water taking showers in 2021 than

they do now. This is partly because of the widespread fitting of power showers, which are becoming popular and use far more water. People also wash their cars more in hot weather. The biggest single increase in home use is watering the lawn. During May to August people who habitually water their lawns during dry

weather are expected to do so twice every nine days, rather than once as at present. Spray irrigation for crops is expected to double over the same period from the present 33 million litres a day to 717 ML/d by 2021. In the country's driest region, Anglia, irrigation demands will increase from 267 ML/d to 596 ML/d. Mr Harrington said that

water companies and the National Rivers Authority were refusing new abstraction licences to farmers because public water supplies could not cope. Restrictions including metering, hose pipe bans, and in extreme cases water rationing, may have to be considered. Martin Wainwright, page 9

Review

The elusive art of self-deprecation

John Fordham Woody Allen Royal Festival Hall

IN A former incarnation as a New Yorker columnist, Woody Allen once wrote an indispensable guide to some of the lesser-known ballets. One such, entitled simply Dimitri, began thus: "... the ballet opens at a carnival. There are refreshments and many people in gaily coloured costumes dance and laugh, and the accompaniment of flutes and woodwinds, while the trombones play in a minor key to suggest that soon the refreshments will run out and everybody will be dead." In an even lesser-known incarnation as a self-confessed amateur clarinetist, Woody Allen played the last gig of a month-long European tour with his New Orleans jazz band at the Royal Festival Hall last night. The refreshments did not run out and everybody, as far as could be judged, survived. But any long-time Allen fans hoping for the same illuminating dialectics of aspiration and pragmatism that informed most of his best work on paper and on film, might have felt this was a rare instance of Allen behaving creatively on the nose. The show was a straightforward, fast-moving, unsurprising, enthusiastic retreading of early jazz classics that have been taken out for affectionate spins by revivalist bands for 60 years or so. Although Woody Allen conceded to the obligations of his stature as far as announcing the band and the rough parameters of the repertoire, he

carefully drew no more attention to himself. That baffled much of the crowd, which tittered at his simple announcements as if they were gags. But Allen was serious. He may not be the world's greatest clarinet player, and the Royal Festival Hall (and other grand European venues this decent, unambitious ensemble has been trumpeted into) may be an overblown space for the Monday night band at New York's Michael's Pub, where Allen has unwound his fraught musculature for years - but he cares. The repertoire was of the kind you might run into on a Sunday lunchtime in an English pub, but at times the band lifted the music to a kind of eager, communicative grace that transcended preoccupation with the famously evasive figure in the check shirt and beige cords. Allen's band rarely exhibits the liquid, sensuous qualities of the long-departed heroes of the instrument, but occasionally embraces a mixture of heart-on-sleeve romanticism and bluntness that rises above the general hum. The rest of the band efficiently keep the serpentine dynamics of the New Orleans style in motion, particularly the trombonist, Dan Barrett, the trumpeter, Simon Wettstein, and the banjoist and musical director, Eddy Davis. But jazz is music of ambiguity, wit, risk and surprise. Woody Allen, who understands such nuances as well as anybody, perhaps does not understand the mechanics of this elusive art quite well enough. This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

Rosemary West appeal rejected

Media payments almost derailed murder trial, barrister admits

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

ROSEMARY West is likely to spend the rest of her life behind bars after losing her appeal against conviction yesterday. It has also emerged that legislation regulating the payment of witnesses by the media could be introduced after a prosecution barrister admitted yesterday that one such payment nearly "derailed" the case. The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Goshford, sitting with Mr Justice Mitchell and Mr Justice Newman, took barely 15 minutes to deliberate before announcing that West's application for leave to appeal had been refused. She was convicted last November at Winchester crown court of

the murder of 10 young women and girls, including her daughter and step-daughter. The trial judge's directions had made it impossible for West to have had a fair trial. Reasons for the judgment were given in the verdict alone, he suggested. But Brian Leveson QC, for the Crown, said: "It's our submission that Mrs West was tried fair and square. The evidence called by the Crown was properly laid before the jury. The summing up [by the trial judge, Mr Justice Mantell] was meticulous in its attention to detail." The jury fully understood the arguments, he added. Mr Leveson said that some of the media coverage was regrettable and had been referred to the Attorney General. A newspaper deal with Janet Leach, who sat in on Fred West's interviews with the police, had been the closest the Crown case had come

to being derailed because Mrs Leach told an "undoubted lie" in court about the £100,000 contract. Mr Leveson said: "No complaint could be made about reporting during the trial." But he told the court: "The question of payment by the media is presently the subject of consideration in the Attorney General's office." Last night, a spokesman for the Attorney General said that cheque book journalism was under consideration within government, though there are no prosecutions of newspapers planned over the West case. A spokeswoman for the Lord Chancellor, said discussions between the Attorney General's office and the Lord Chancellor's office were under way. Last night Caroline Owens, said she was "very relieved" at yesterday's court decision to bar an appeal, which she said had been hanging over her.

ence, particularly from Caroline Owens, one of the chief prosecution witnesses, who had been sexually assaulted by the Wests in the 1970s, and the trial judge's directions had made it impossible for West to have had a fair trial. Reasons for the judgment were given in the verdict alone, he suggested. But Brian Leveson QC, for the Crown, said: "It's our submission that Mrs West was tried fair and square. The evidence called by the Crown was properly laid before the jury. The summing up [by the trial judge, Mr Justice Mantell] was meticulous in its attention to detail." The jury fully understood the arguments, he added. Mr Leveson said that some of the media coverage was regrettable and had been referred to the Attorney General. A newspaper deal with Janet Leach, who sat in on Fred West's interviews with the police, had been the closest the Crown case had come

'£3.6bn bonanza' for EU countries

John Palmer in Brussels

A SLUMP in agricultural spending by the European Union is providing an unexpected bonanza which could help to finance a big increase in EU infrastructure investment, and also return cash from Brussels to national governments. A confidential report to be presented to the European Commission today says that underspending in the EU farm budget could total more than £3.6 billion over the next three years. Last week EU finance ministers rebuffed a proposal by the commission president, Jacques Santer, to switch about £1 billion of expected farm savings to boost investment in trans-European transport and energy networks and other job creating projects. The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, and other ministers insisted that any spare cash in the EU budget should be returned to national governments. But the new report going to the commission prescribes much larger potential savings, thanks to a bigger than expected drop in spending on the Common Agricultural Policy. "The estimate of the [£3.6 billion] savings may grow if anything to be conservative. The savings between now and 1999 could be even greater," a senior commission source said. The slump in spending on the CAP is partly due to a faster rise in prices on world food markets than in Europe, and partly to curbs on excess production introduced as part of the reform of the CAP dur-

ing the past decade. The narrower price differential between international and European markets has enabled the EU to slash food export subsidies. The EU's agricultural surpluses and its notorious food mountains have all but disappeared in the case of many key products, such as grains and dairy produce. Moreover, the cost of incentives to farmers to co-operate with the CAP reforms and to develop new uses for the countryside has proved less than forecast. This year the total EU budget is put at about £57.4 billion, of which the CAP accounts for around £28 billion. The prospect of a big underspend in the EU budget should make it easier to win the agreement of all 15 governments for at least part of the savings to be invested in the trans-European networks, in industrial research and development, and help for small businesses. "These are all vitally important projects to help boost the competitiveness of the European economy and help create jobs," the commission source pointed out. But with their own budgets under strain, and most EU governments keen to meet the Maastricht treaty conditions for joining a single European currency, national treasuries will want as big repayments from Brussels as possible. The extent to which the farm budget can be milked for other projects will depend on governments agreeing not to step up demands for bigger payments to their farmers. Kohl pins hope on euro, page 7; Leader comment, page 8

All-party talks on guns policy to start in wake of massacre

Michael White and Erland Clouston

JOHN MAJOR yesterday endorsed Labour calls for urgent all-party consultation on reform of Britain's gun laws in the wake of the Dunblane massacre as the Home Office signalled a sweeping internal review intended to influence the Cullen inquiry into the tragedy. There was also a service for Sophia North, the only child of Stirling University professor Mike North, whose wife died of cancer two years ago. Police said last night that Thomas Hamilton, who murdered 16 children a week ago, was cremated yesterday at an unnamed location "well away from Dunblane". In Whitehall, ministers, mindful of the folly of the Dangerous Dogs Act, are determined not to be stampeded into "knee jerk" responses to the killings. But they are also keen to capitalise on the political consensus and back bench pressure to tighten regulation. The prime minister confirmed yesterday that the Scottish judge Lord Cullen will address the issue of handguns in his inquiry, which could report by May.

700-year-old cathedral for friends, Melissa Currie and Charlotte Dunn. Charlotte had moved to the area six months ago from the West Midlands. Separate ceremonies followed for Megan Turner and Hannah Scott. Earlier, motorists left their cars and stood at attention as the cortege of David Kerr left the Church of the Holy Family for Dunblane cemetery. There was also a service for Sophia North, the only child of Stirling University professor Mike North, whose wife died of cancer two years ago. Police said last night that Thomas Hamilton, who murdered 16 children a week ago, was cremated yesterday at an unnamed location "well away from Dunblane". In Whitehall, ministers, mindful of the folly of the Dangerous Dogs Act, are determined not to be stampeded into "knee jerk" responses to the killings. But they are also keen to capitalise on the political consensus and back bench pressure to tighten regulation. The prime minister confirmed yesterday that the Scottish judge Lord Cullen will address the issue of handguns in his inquiry, which could report by May.

Some MPs want to see the banning of handguns storage in people's homes. Yesterday the SNP leader, Alex Salmond, proposed a total ban on guns except for "agricultural or countryside" use. At question time the Labour leader, Tony Blair, told Mr Major: "It would be sensible to begin at least examining these issues now on an all-party basis." Mr Major replied: "I know the Home Secretary would welcome the views of other parties." More than 100 MPs signed a Commons motion urging a ban on the video distribution of Natural Born Killers.

Girl paralysed by shrapnel in Bosnia flown to UK for treatment

Sarah Boseley

MURILJA Mujic, the 12-year-old Bosnian girl paralysed by shrapnel who was rescued from a hopeless future by a British soldier, flew back to Britain for treatment yesterday. With her were three other children suffering childhood afflictions of such severity

that they have no hope of growing to adulthood in Bosnia. Adnan Cosic, aged 16 months, has a congenital heart defect which needs surgery. Elvis Kosacevic, 14, needs open heart surgery and Ivo Susac, seven, has intractable epilepsy. Donations to Child Advocacy International should be sent to PO Box 716, Stoke on Trent, ST4 6QL.

Cruise to Calais in comfort...

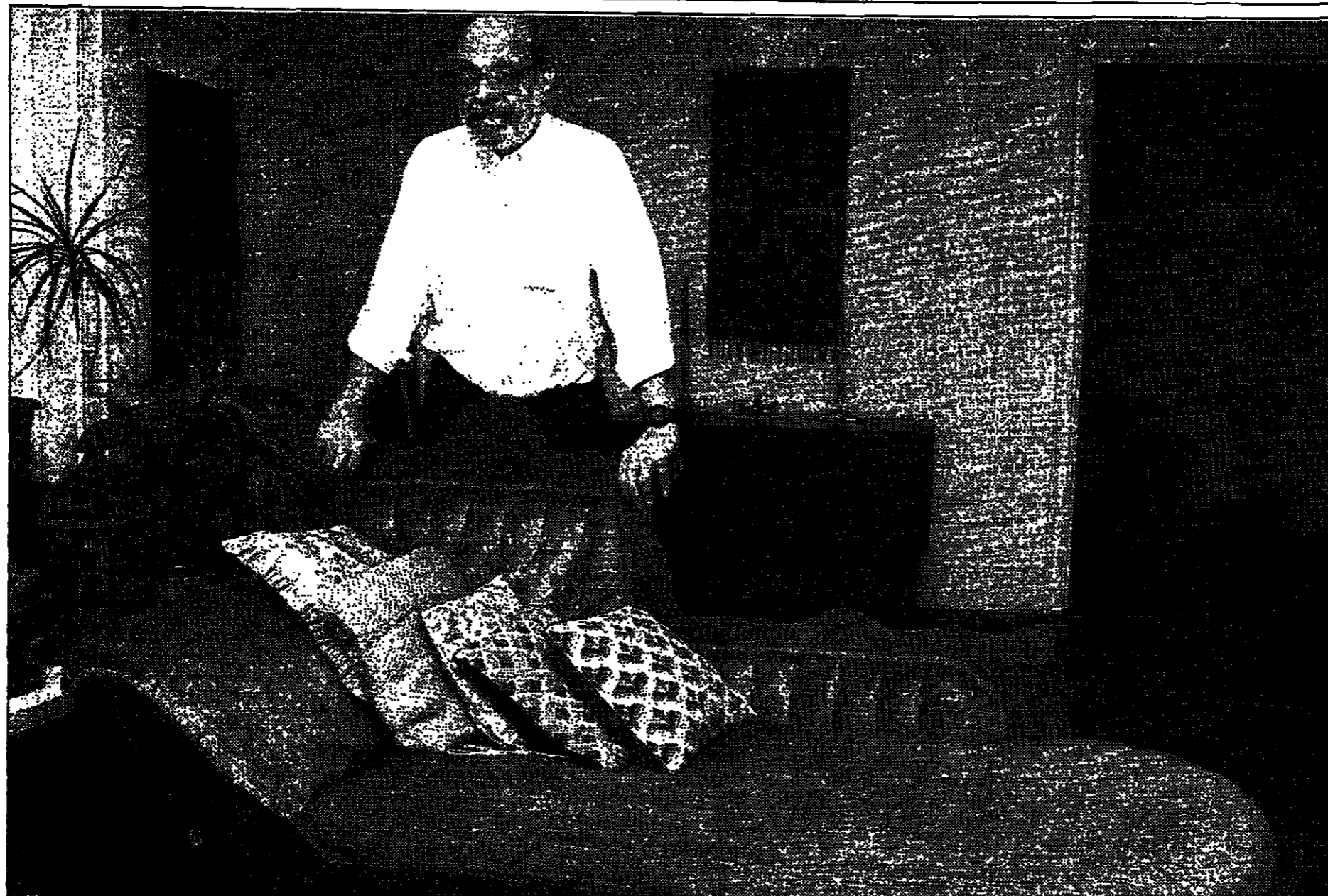
RELAX and just cruise across from Dover to Calais - the shortest sea route to France. Large, luxurious car ferries with shops, restaurants and entertainment on board, plus hovercraft, provide rapid, comfortable crossings with a departure every thirty minutes. Fast on and off loading on both sides of the Channel helps to speed your journey. Instant motorway access from Calais port provides an open door to the entire European motorway network.



For a shopping day, a relaxing stay or for immediate access to motorway... Calais ...begins with sea. DOVER/CALAIS OVER 140 CROSSINGS DAILY BY P&O EUROPEAN FERRIES, STENA LINE, SEAFRANCE & HOVERFERRY.

Add timer to your business

will be report



George Delury in the New York apartment where he assisted his wife's death. His diary told of his frustration with her indecisiveness about taking her life. PHOTOGRAPH BY CHESTER HIGGINS

**“George, I want tomorrow to be my last day. Life like this is a drag”**

**Chronicle of a death foretold**

**February 28**  
VISITED Petito today. We told him Myrna was getting really tired of the struggle. He shunted the thought aside. No help there. Myrna was less agitated this evening. We talked some more of... what needs to be done before the end.

**March 1**  
I went out very briefly after Gloria left to get some milk for making corn muffins. When I came back, I found Myrna in tears, sobbing. What could I do but hold her. I knew what she was feeling. I've felt it myself. A deep, deep sorrow, inexpressible, inconsolable.

**March 2**  
Is this country so damned crazy about life at any price, so neurotic about death, that we are all but unable to help the dying meet the end with a glimmer of understanding and acceptance?

**March 5**  
Yesterday, Sabbath, Myrna indicated she was not ready to call it quits. She insists she do something! Help her find out what I have no idea. I told her so.

**March 12**  
Today is Myrna's birthday — 52 years, 10 under the cloud. We're having a small party with our closest and best friends — Claudette, Gloria and Luye.

**March 14**  
Reread about amitriptylin in the Physician's Desk Reference again today. It definitely looks like it could do the job. Better still, I experimented with dissolving some 10mg tablets in a small amount of water.

**March 27**  
It is a measure of my isolation that when I first began to think about my alternatives... they came down to Myrna's care (status quo), recognize that my life is over in that option and end it now (the easiest way out), walk away (criminal in more ways than one), or kill her (perhaps the kindest thing for all concerned).

**April 5**  
This evening she admitted that she can't read a book anymore... and said she doesn't want to stick around. I told her I had solved the drug intake problem. She changed the subject. I think I better get ready. I dissolved and filtered 1,500 mg of Elavil today. I'll taste test it tonight before storing it in the fridge. It would be horrible to go out one evening and use it and find it was growing hair.

**May 19**  
Myrna is definitely down from the latest high, showing increased depression over her handicaps... My problem: if she asks for the poison now but seems very depressed, should I comply? Is she still autonomous? If I comply, I may be serving my own interests more than hers. If I don't, she may be losing her last chance to make the decision.

**May 31**  
When we sat down to supper tonight, I asked her how she was feeling. She surprised me. She said, "I'm going to end it tonight or tomorrow night." She didn't see the point of going to see Tarpey again, she is tired of not being able to do anything by herself, of not being able to go out by herself. She said everything is a chore. She said she is tired.

**July 3**  
This morning, she said, "George, I want tomorrow to be my last day. Life like this is a drag. Nothing seems very interesting or worthwhile anymore." I asked if there was anything special she wanted to eat today or tomorrow. Nothing, except the chicken.

**July 4, 12.30am**  
Myrna has just consumed 3,000 to 4,000 mg of the amitriptylin. Her courage was remarkable. Once begun, she went ahead as long as she could before it began to threaten the heavens... She said very little. Very direct and businesslike. No tearful goodbyes, no jokes, just a let's get this done approach. All rather anticlimactic.

**7.15am**  
Myrna is sleeping heavily. I'm going to grab an hour's sleep. 5.30am: Slept through the alarm. It's over. Myrna is dead. Desolation.

# Last words in diary of death

After years looking after his chronically ill wife, George Delury encouraged her to take her life, and gave her the means. Soon, he starts a jail term. **Ian Katz** reports on a US debate about helping people to die



Myrna Lebov with her husband. 'She didn't want to live in a state of total dependency and mindlessness'

**G**EORGE DELURY is making plans to sublet his apartment. It will be available for four months, he says, less if he is released early for the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah. On May 17, having legal surprises, the bespectacled freelance editor, aged 63, will pack a small bag and go to jail for helping his chronically ill wife to commit suicide last July. Mr Delury's decision to accept a plea bargain last Friday of second-degree attempted manslaughter — and a six-month prison sentence — was a striking counterpoint to a federal appeal court ruling barely a week earlier that Americans had a constitutional right to seek help in dying.

Mr Delury may have been all but convicted by the honesty of a diary he kept of his wife's last months, in which he recorded his growing despair and frustration with her indecisiveness about taking her life. He readily admits that he did more than simply provide Myrna Lebov, aged 52, with a solution of anti-depressants, water and honey in the early hours of July 4. "I at no time discouraged her. At every point I encouraged her to decide and to quit... because I was afraid for her and knew she didn't want to live in a state of total dependency and mindlessness."

Ms Lebov's sister, Beverly Sloane, for one, believes Mr Delury pushed her into committing suicide. Another factor which has complicated the debate about the case is that Ms Lebov was not, by conventional definitions, terminally ill. She suffered from multiple sclerosis, the debilitating disease which by last year had rendered her wheelchair-bound and unable to perform basic bodily functions without help. Mr Delury says he knew she was in the early stages of the disease when they married in 1974. "I asked myself, would I be able to bear the potential burden and I decided that I'd have to give it a try. I loved her. I didn't want to live without her."

He says he and Ms Lebov, who was also a writer and editor, enjoyed almost 10 happy years before her condition began to decline dramatically. For at least the year leading up to her death, however, her condition made life for both of them a constant trial. He had to catheterise her four times a day and watched in dismay as her sharp mind deteriorated. "It was getting to the point where she couldn't follow a movie plot. She used to read a book a week but she had stopped reading." He says she also suffered extreme mood swings during which "it was like she had gone away".


They had talked about suicide as early as 1979, when his mother died. In early 1995, Mr Delury raised the subject once more, worried that his wife was approaching the point beyond which she would be unable to take the decision to kill herself. He did his own research on the Internet and in medical reference books and concluded that a massive dose of amitriptyline, an anti-depressant she was taking, would be lethal. He practised dissolving the tablets in water, but though he kept some of the poison in the refrigerator, in a jar marked prune juice, Ms Lebov repeatedly changed her mind about taking her life. On some occasions when she said she wanted to, Mr Delury feared she was suffering from acute depression and refused to help her. At the same time, Mr Delury was increasingly desperate. "I had been at this for five years, working, in effect, 16-hour days, seven days a week... The idea of taking care of just a body and the person absent — I could not have done it. I think I would have killed us both."

### Who's Who:

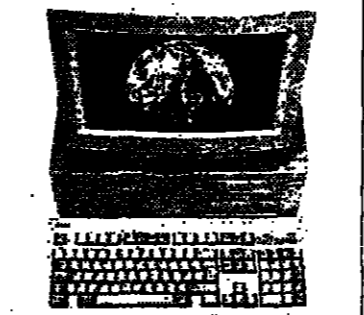
- Petito: Ms Lebov's doctor
- Gloria: Ms Lebov's home health aide
- Claudette: Ms Lebov's substitute home helper
- Luye: Ms Lebov's physical therapist
- Tarpey: Ms Lebov's psychiatric social worker
- Anna: Mr Delury's daughter

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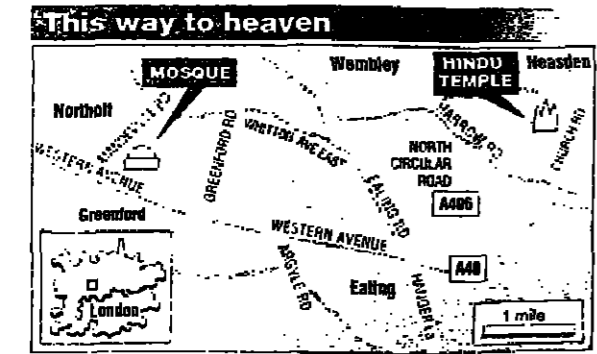


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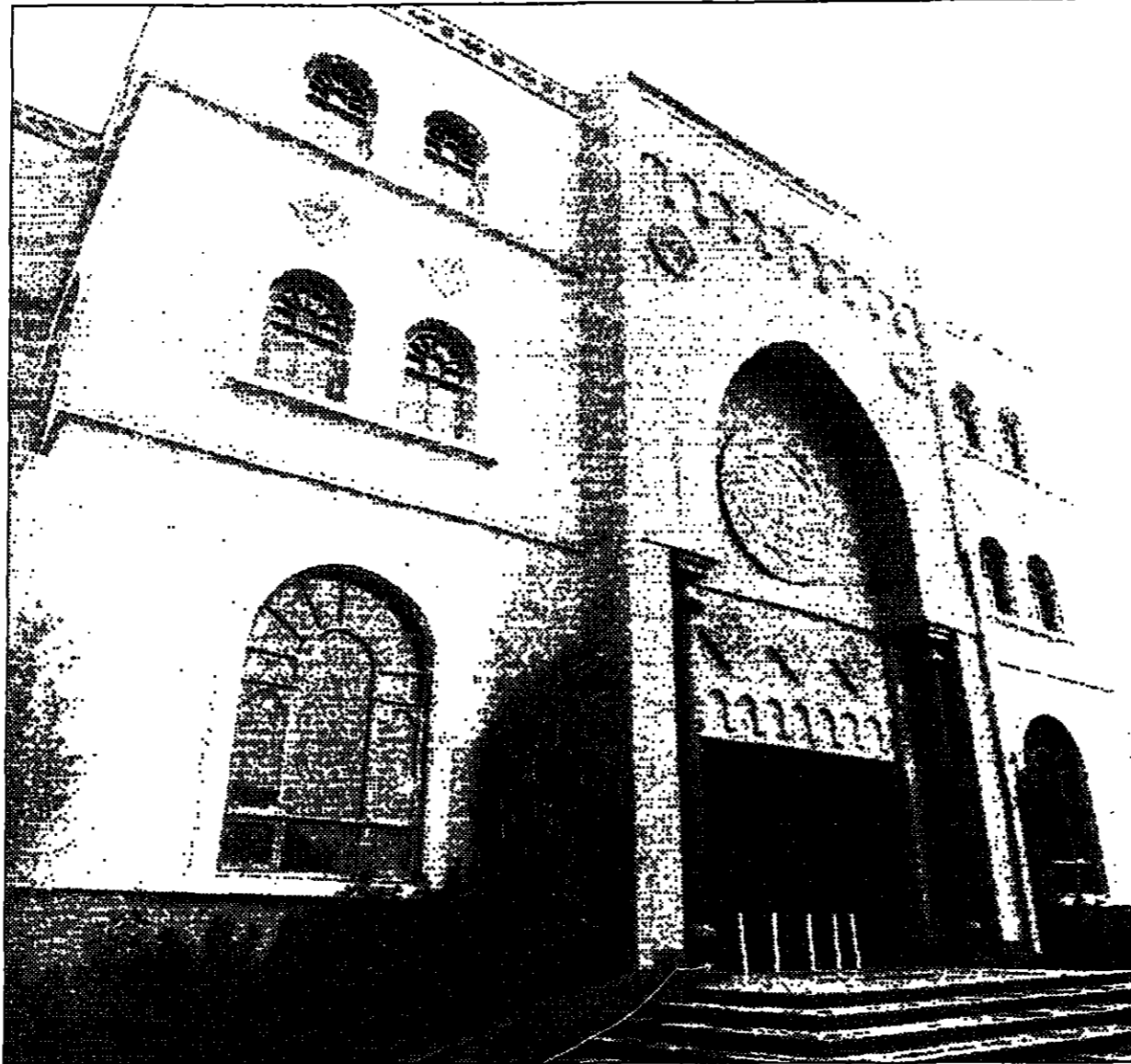
Madeleine Bunting sees one of the biggest and most beautiful mosques in Britain rising by an industrial estate



Minarets and domes rise among the warehouses

ONE OF the largest and most beautiful mosques ever built in Britain is emerging in the incongruous surroundings of warehouses on an industrial estate in a suburb of west London. The domes and minarets of rose-pink sandstone are rising above the rooftops in Northolt, only four miles from Neasden, home to a spectacular Hindu temple opened last summer. Allegations of traditional Hindu-Muslim rivalry between the Swaminarayan Hindu Mandir in Neasden and new Mohammedi Park Masjid Complex are quickly rejected by members of the 4,000-strong community of Dawoodi Bohras Muslims in Britain, who began planning the mosque in 1980 before they had heard of the Hindu temple. They have lavished £8 million on a complex of community facilities

around a mosque which will seat 1,000 people. Yesterday the Prince of Wales, who has taken a keen interest in the mosque's reinterpretation of traditional Islamic architecture from Fatimid Egypt, visited the still incomplete complex. One of his architectural advisers, Keith Critchlow, who teaches at the Institute of Architecture, has been closely involved in the mosque's construction. Inevitably comparisons will be drawn between these two striking religious landmarks in London. Both have been built by sects originating in Gujarat, which have been able to raise money from international communities and mobilise volunteers to build monuments which will put these marginal groups on the map. Behind the new Mohammedi Park Masjid Complex,

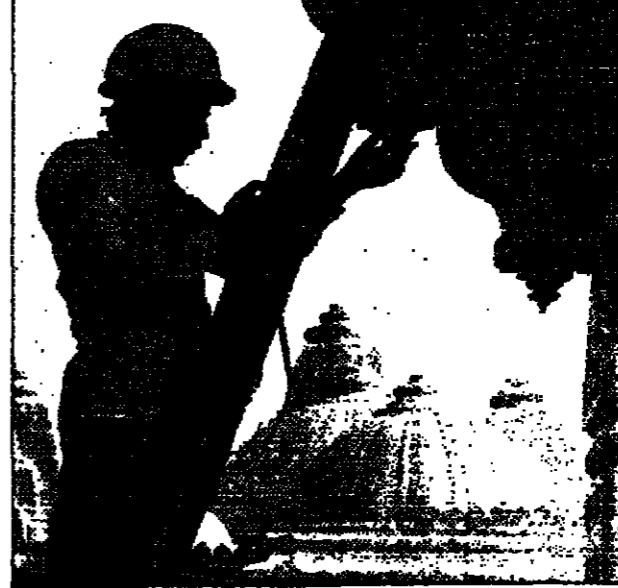


Mohammedi Park Masjid mosque, nearing completion in Northolt, west London, and (top right) Kachrugal Sudhal working on the Hindu Swaminarayan temple in Neasden, north London. PHOTOGRAPHS: GRAHAM TURNER (above) and TOPPA MATTHEWS

due to be completed in the summer, are the Dawoodi Bohras, a rich community of traders which counts a million followers in India, East Africa, the US, Canada and the UK. They are a branch of Shia Islam and are distinctive by their clothing: the women wear veils tied under the chin, and long dresses, the men wear white caps trimmed in gold, and beards. "This is the first mosque we have built in Europe," said Lubaina Tye-ehji, a press spokeswoman. "Because we are a business community we settle in many countries. Wherever we live, we build mosques to teach our children about our culture and language."

The mosque offers a sports hall for basketball and volleyball, and a communal dining room and kitchen which will be able to feed up to 1,000 people on festival days. The mosque's architecture is simple and severe, but a frieze of intricate plasterwork proclaiming the hundred names of Allah will run around the

walls, there will be etched designs on the window glass and a screen of mahogany filigree will separate the women from the men. There has been considerable local opposition — fuelled by an active British National Party presence in Northolt. Perhaps to offset possible hostility the com-



**MUSLIMS:**  
There are about 600 mosques in the UK of which about 150 are purpose built. The rest are in converted homes or churches.  
Regent's Park mosque in London, built with donations from Saudi Arabia, is the largest. It can hold several thousand worshippers. The Aga Khan's mosque in South Kensington is one of the most prestigious. Large mosques have also recently been built in Leicester, Birmingham, Glasgow and Blackburn.  
**HINDUS:**  
There are about 120 Hindu temples. Many are in converted churches, schools, houses or warehouses.  
At least four have been purpose built in elaborate Hindu style. The most famous is the remarkable marble temple of the Swaminarayan Hindu Mission in Neasden.

Southall and Willesden, also in west London, also have traditional temples as does Leicester. Another is at the planning stage in Ealing.  
**JEWS:**  
There are about 350 synagogues. Just over half are in London, with the greatest concentrations in Barnet and Hackney.  
The number of synagogues increased by 30 in the 1980s as Jews moved out of the inner cities to set up new communities in East Anglia, Kent and on the South coast.  
**CHRISTIANS:**  
In 1994 there were 49,847 churches. The total is stable; every week six churches close and six open.  
The fastest growing denominations are the evangelical New Churches, which have opened 1,897 since 1980, the Baptists (439) and the Pentecostals (419).

plex has been designed to blend into the neighbourhood. Town houses run round the perimeter of the complex, screening the mosque from the street. All have been bought by members of the community to create a Muslim enclave in this mixture of industry and 1930s suburban streets just off the M40.

The complex has been designed to meet all the needs of its inhabitants — spiritual, social and physical, explained Mustafa Abulhussein. "This architecture is about the blurring of the difference between religious and secular. There is great beauty in its simplicity."

Scott attacks 'elective dictatorship'

Richard Norton-Taylor

The abuse of executive power — by both Conservative and Labour administrations, and the failure of Parliament to act when it had the opportunity to do so — "gave substance to the charge that the constitution has become an elective dictatorship."

Whitehall lawyers, Sir Richard said, had admitted that claims that the emergency had continued until the

final 1990 four-power settlement in Germany was a "convenient fiction". "What business has a democratic Government in a country subject to the rule of law, to use 'convenient fiction' ... in order to continue its use of emergency powers?" asked the author of the arms-to-Iraq report, published last month. A phrase in the law covering

export controls was repealed in 1990 without opposition. It declared the end of the wartime emergency but made the emergency powers permanent. The context of those powers, he said, was "constitutionally unacceptable". The union representing top Whitehall officials alleged that the Scott report — and the Government's response — had opened a "chasm" on the issue of ministerial responsibility to Parliament that left civil servants in an impossible position.

The report's criticisms of civil servants are not as strong as those directed at ministers, he said. "The report is to be taken, says Liz Symons, general secretary of the First Division Association, in the union's journal. "Urgent clarification about responsibility for the deliberate misleading of the House of Commons is now needed."



Sir Richard Scott: 'cynical evasion' by Government

More teachers sue for assault

Donald MacLeod Education Correspondent

FOUR more local authorities are to be sued for negligence by a teachers' union which won record compensation for a primary teacher permanently injured by a pupil aged 10.

ers to complain about a hidden mountain of violence and abuse from children. Nigel de Gruchy, the union's general secretary, said it would sue local authorities in Nottinghamshire, Leeds, Derbyshire and Sandwell in the West Midlands over similar incidents. Grand-maintained school governors would also be taken to court they did not take steps to protect their teachers.

The National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers is also calling for police or security guards to be stationed at potential flashpoints in schools, the installation of closed-circuit cameras and personal panic alarms for teachers.

He urged councils to stop closing special schools and units for emotionally and behaviourally disturbed children. "The message we're sending out to negligent employers is that the union will pursue these cases. And if we can't pursue them with reason and common sense and justice, we will pursue them in the courts and hit them where it hurts, in their pockets."

Hazel Spence-Young received £82,500 from Coventry city council last week for spinal injuries inflicted at Frederick Bird primary school in 1983 by a boy who was so violent that an educational psychologist said he should be in a special school. He punched and kicked her as she tried to persuade him to go back into the classroom.

Local authorities could use security guards at schools at break times and after classes to prevent gang violence, Mr de Gruchy said.

Now unable to work, she needs constant painkillers, including morphine, and her right arm is partly paralysed. Repeated requests for the child to be moved from the school had been ignored before the attack. She and a fellow class teacher were instructed to integrate him into their class of 48 pupils.

He moved to a special school after the incident. Mrs Spence-Young said he had also been failed by the system. "He needed help years before he got it."

She said yesterday she hoped her award — in an out-of-court settlement after the union began legal action — would persuade other teach-

Lords back voluntary code over TV sporting highlights

Andrew Cuff Media Correspondent

A VOLUNTARY code to safeguard highlights of sports events on the BBC and ITV received all-party backing in the Lords last night as the Government averted a fresh defeat over television sports coverage.

went a long way to addressing fears that highlights of events including rugby union internationals, Royal Ascot, Open golf and the Ryder Cup, might not remain available on mainstream channels. A fortnight ago the Government conceded that eight listed events — the so-called sporting crown jewels including Wimbledon, Grand National and FA Cup final — would remain available to terrestrial viewers.

Lord Howell, the former Labour sports minister, withdrew an amendment which would have forced sporting bodies to sell packages of highlights to terrestrial channels when satellite stations had exclusive live coverage, and threw his support behind a voluntary code.

The BBC, which has strongly campaigned for legislation to protect highlights, said: "We look forward to the Government coming up with its own proposals to make sure the public continue to have access to these important sporting events."

The Sports Council has supplied the Department of National Heritage with the first draft of a code of conduct on highlights and is confident of getting major sports to sign up.

● Bruce Gynell, managing director of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees, yesterday became the first leading television executive to support the introduction of electronic chip technology to protect children from violence on TV. The House of Commons is expected to debate the so-called V-chip, which is to be installed in all United States television sets from 1998, during discussion of the Broadcasting Bill.

The development was welcomed by Lord Inglewood, the broadcasting minister. "A voluntary code is the right way to proceed with this matter. There is no reason to suppose that a successful outcome will not be achieved."

Lord Howell said the code

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Labour delays Railtrack plans

Rebecca Smithers and Keith Harper

THE Labour leadership has delayed its long-awaited plans to set out its strategy on the re-nationalisation of Railtrack because of divisions among senior members of the shadow cabinet about the policy.

form of buy-back of the shares in Railtrack, which would keep the trade unions happy and underline Labour's opposition to the sell-off.

Tony Blair was originally due this week to give details of his party's position on the track and signalling company, which the Government will sell on the stock market in May with a £2 billion price tag.

This could be done by issuing preference shares in exchange for ordinary shares — a legally complex option — or by buying back a controlling stake in Railtrack which would be hugely expensive.

Amid conflicting signals about the precise mechanism Labour will use to honour its commitment to a publicly owned and publicly accountable railway, Mr Blair is refusing to make a statement until he is ready.

But shadow transport secretary Clare Short and shadow chancellor Gordon Brown are hoping to convince Mr Blair that ownership is irrelevant, provided that a future government ensures tough regulation and control over its charging regime, which determines its profits.

Several drafts to cover Labour's policy on Railtrack have been prepared, but even with a vague wording they have not been approved because of disagreements about the public expenditure commitment involved.

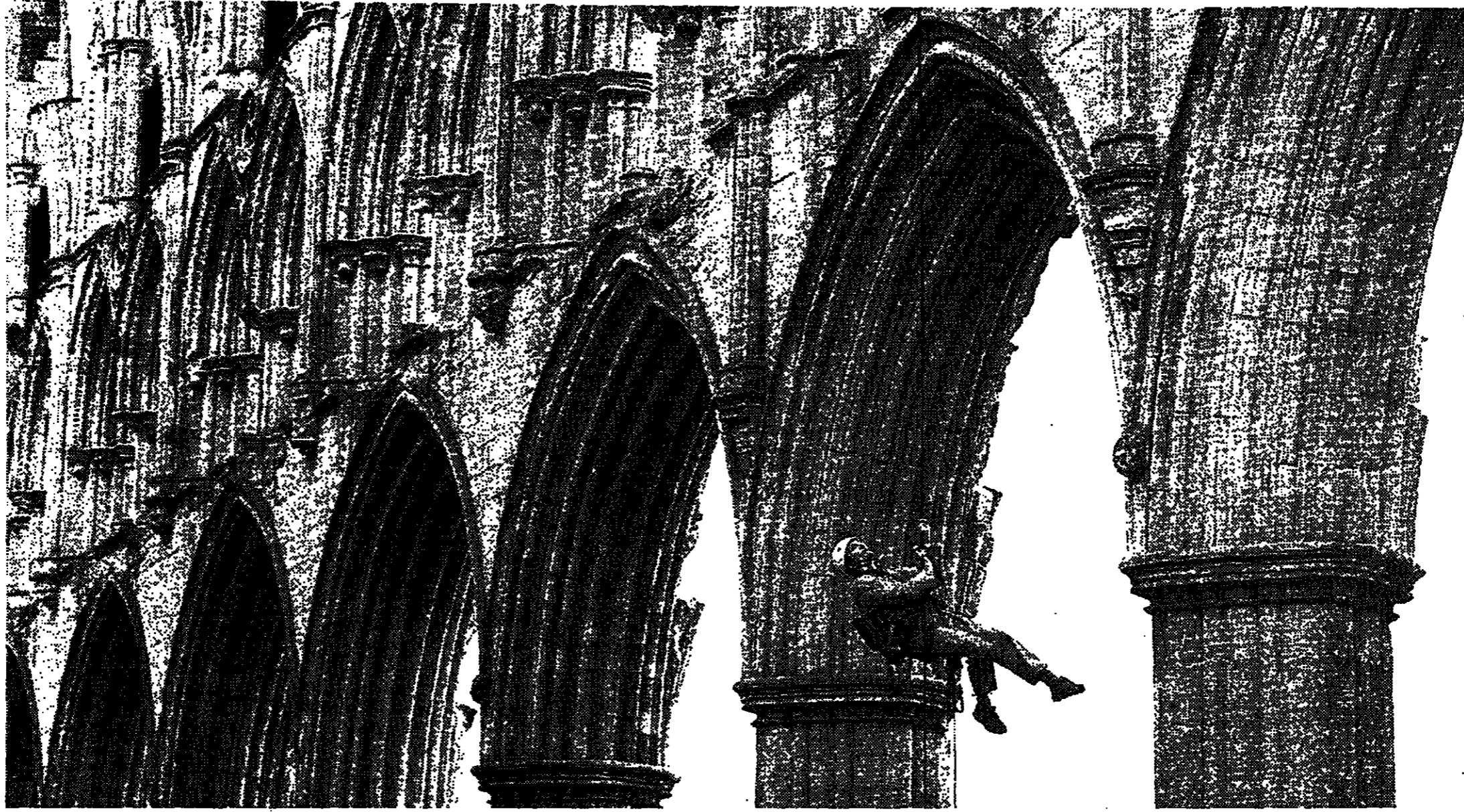
The shadow cabinet will seek to firm up its policy at a meeting this evening, following meetings between Mr Prescott and the transport team to try to resolve the issue.

Deputy leader John Prescott — who is heading the policy review — and junior transport spokesman Brian Wilson are known to favour a tough line involving some

The Government will attack Labour's position, whenever it comes, although it remains confident the May flotation will go without a hitch.

The pathfinder prospectus setting out the details of the flotation but without the key details — the offer price of each share — will be published in mid-April, ahead of the formal share offer the following month.

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## Team of climbers surveys abbey

**R**OCK climber Chris Milford (left), dangling above the ruins of a Yorkshire abbey yesterday, is engaged with colleagues in a money-saving attempt to trace frost damage in the fragile medieval masonry, writes Martin Wainwright.

Stone blisters have been detected on the upper courses of the nave and transepts at Rievaulx, a 12th century Cistercian abbey near Helmsley, threatening to topple fragments 70ft to the floor.

"Normally we would have to put up scaffolding to carry out such a detailed survey as this," said John Simons of English Heritage, which is planning a six-month repair programme using stainless steel pins.

"But climbers can get to the top parts of the abbey quickly and effectively, saving time and money."

The survey is being carried out by Wallworkers, a Bristol consortium of specialist climbers. The team will video the damage, on stones erected by Abbot Alured's craftsmen in 1131, while conservationists study the images on monitors in the cloister.

PHOTOGRAPH: JAMIE WISEMAN

Less than half marriages will last 25 years, but living alone need not necessarily mean solitude, survey finds

# Odds on divorce stacked against silver weddings

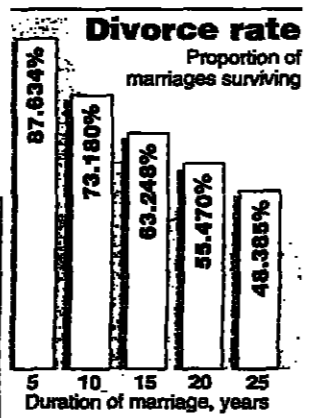
Only one in nine marriages is likely to last a golden 50 years

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

**L**ESS than half married couples will celebrate their silver wedding anniversary, government statisticians said yesterday.

Forty-one per cent of marriages will collapse in divorce, according to the latest forecasts from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. Taking account of deaths, the statisticians say only 48.4 per cent of married couples will still be together in 25 years' time.

The forecasts are based on 1983/84 divorce rates. Previous forecasts suggested 57 per cent of marriages would end in divorce (based on 1987 rates) and 34 per cent (1979/80 rates). John Haskey, the OPCS official responsible for the calculations, said divorce had risen inexorably over the past 30 years and it was reasonable to assume the 1983/84 rates would at least persist. Indeed, Mr Haskey agreed that the 41 per cent divorce forecast was "probably" conservative. But he said it was impossible to extrapolate the figure to indicate whether most new marriages were doomed to divorce.



Some 168,000 couples divorced in England and Wales in 1994, the latest year for which full figures are available, with 165,000 children under 16 caught up in the proceedings.

Of couples marrying in 1981, 23 per cent were divorced within 10 years. This compares to 17 per cent of those marrying in 1971, 7 per cent of those in 1961 and 3 per cent of those in 1951.

Divorce rates are strikingly higher among certain groups: more than 40 per cent of 1960s and 1970s marriages had ended in divorce by 1994 where the husband had married as a teenager, or where either partner had remarried in their early 20s after a previous divorce.

Among previously-divorced men who remarried in their early 20s in "snapshot" years

of 1966 or 1971, more than half were divorced by 1994.

On present trends, the OPCS expects one in nine couples to divorce before five years of marriage and almost one in four before 10 years. One in nine marriages is likely to last 50 years for a golden wedding anniversary.

Mr Haskey said he expected the Government's divorce law reform to trigger an initial rise in divorces — as couples sought a quick, fault-based settlement under present arrangements ahead of the planned changes — followed by a short-term fall after the changes. A long-term impact on divorces was unlikely.

Chris Mihill, Medical Correspondent

**A** THREE-YEAR, £9 million Government health education campaign was launched yesterday aimed at changing "couch potato" Britain by encouraging everyone to take at least 30 minutes' moderate exercise five times a week.

The campaign, Active for Life, has been launched after a survey for the Health Education Authority found that seven out of 10 women and six out of 10 men are not active enough to benefit their health.

The initiative is stressing that people do not need to take vigorous or formal exercise such as squash, running or aerobics. Instead, walking to work, taking the stairs instead of the lift, cycling, dancing or gardening can have significant benefits.

The HEA said half the population was overweight and one in four was sedentary, increasing the risk of illnesses such as heart disease, strokes, raised blood pressure, osteoporosis and diabetes.

Baroness Cumberlege, junior health minister, said: "We want to counter the myth that physical activity is about

£9m campaign launched to change couch potato culture

Chris Mihill, Medical Correspondent

sport and nothing else. It means things like walking and cycling and dancing. Many people don't appreciate that lack of exercise is one of the main risk factors for heart disease. We want to see more people more active more often."

Paul Lincoln, HEA director, said: "The hype about the fitness boom of the 1980s has clearly passed many people by. We are all spending more time in sedentary occupations like looking at computer screens. We are becoming a nation of couch potatoes.

"Inactive and unfit people have double the risk of heart disease compared with their fit and active counterparts. Inactivity is as big a risk as raised blood pressure, high cholesterol and smoking. A brisk walk, cycling or gardening can have significant health benefits provided they are done often enough.

"Thirty minutes of activity five times a week can mean something as simple as someone taking two 15-minute walks a day."

Nick Cavill, the HEA's physical activity manager, said 26 per cent of women and 16 per cent of men were put off exercise because they did not regard themselves as sporty.

"Many people are put off by the glass ceiling of a sedentary life associated with activity. But activity doesn't mean sport or exercise. Activity that will improve health is within everyone's reach and can be part of daily living."

Rise and rise of 'happy singles' set to dispel loneliness myth

Owen Bowcott

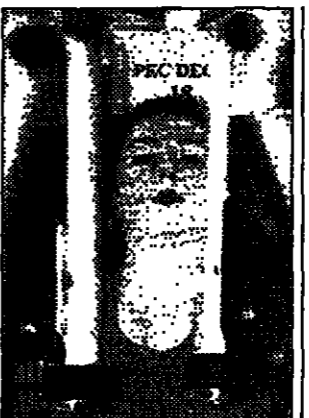
**T**HE number of people living alone — and enjoying it — will increase sharply over the next five years, while the proportion of people aged under 25 is set to go into steep decline, according to two surveys released today.

By 2000, 30 per cent of the UK population will form one person households due to higher divorce rates, longer life expectancy, and the trend for couples to marry later.

The reports, by the market research organisation Mintel and the British Youth Council, give a snapshot of change and opinions among two overlapping groups: the young and the unattached.

The findings undermine the myth of "sad, lonely singles". In many cases they may be more sociable than married couples, Angela Hughes, Mintel's consumer research manager, said yesterday. "Coupledom doesn't appear to be quite the cherished notion it was 10 years ago."

By the end of the century, the Mintel survey suggests, there will be 8 million single households, compared with the 6.8 million recorded by the end of last year.



A woman pumps iron to keep fit while another seems to be on the opposite tack. The HEA is seeking to promote a happy medium



## Cruft's showdog savages child

Bull mastiff to be destroyed after its second attack in three years

Martin Wainwright

**S**URGEONS operated last night to reconstruct the face of an eight-year-old boy who was savaged by a Cruft's showdog bull mastiff when he ran to retrieve a football from a neighbour's garden.

The dog is to be destroyed following the vicious attack, its second in three years, which left Michael Swain's face and back shredded with bites.

Neighbours ran to help the screaming schoolboy as the mastiff, Casper, repeatedly attacked him after pushing through a half-opened front door in a quiet residential area of Bradford, West Yorkshire. Michael was given extensive plastic surgery at the city's Royal Infirmary and is due to have further treatment.

His father, Graham, 37, a

self-employed builder, said his son's sight was saved by his glasses. He said: "It is unnecessary to keep a dog so big in an area like this. It's three to four feet high, more like a small horse."

The attack came after Casper's owner, Tony Oxley, waved Michael into the garden to fetch the ball, but the dog darted out of the house and was on top of him immediately. Mr Swain said: "His face was dripping blood everywhere, like a piece of meat. His jumper was torn to shreds and his back was like a pepperpot with all the tooth marks."

Mr Swain said Casper had attacked his wife, Sonya, three years earlier, but she had decided not to report the incident. He added: "Thank God Michael had his glasses on at the time. He is a typical kid who hates wearing them. He has been in a lot of pain but he was joking today be-



Michael Swain: Underwent extensive plastic surgery

broken to lose Casper, but that's nothing to the feeling I have for Michael and his family. I'm so sorry about what has happened to Michael."

West Yorkshire police said Mr Oxley had agreed to have the dog destroyed and a report had been sent to the Crown Prosecution Service under the 1991 Dangerous Dogs Act. A decision on whether charges will be brought alleging that Casper was dangerously out of control will be made later.

Terry Singh, Bradford's chief animal warden, said: "Any dog can turn, because they are very unpredictable animals. This type of dog has been used for centuries, mainly by gamekeepers on large estates. But they are increasingly popular as guard dogs."

A fully grown bull mastiff like Casper weighs an average of 110-130 lbs. The law governing potentially dangerous dogs was changed in 1991 following another vicious attack in Bradford on a child, Roxana Khan, who was severely mauled by a bull terrier.

## Homeless Big Issue sellers 'find love'

Magazine street vendors 'meet hostility but enjoy better health'

Martyn Halsall

**L**OVE has blossomed on the streets of Liverpool between homeless sellers of the Big Issue magazine and some of their customers, university research is about to reveal.

The first academic survey of the lives and loves of 70, mostly single, Big Issue sellers found their job paid dividends in health and social benefits, compared with unemployed homeless people.

A few sellers have met partners "with whom they intended sharing their lives once they obtained secure, independent accommodation", says the report by a team led by Sean Stitt of John Moores University in Liverpool, to be published next week.

There is no love lost between magazine vendors and the Government, it says.

"The unanimous perception of all vendors was that central and local government were 'poisonously prejudiced' towards them, and saw them as 'worthless vermin' who should be 'cleaned off the streets' and 'locked up'."

All vendors surveyed blamed the Government for their homelessness.

Among the jobless group, 25 per cent blamed themselves for being homeless, half blamed the Govern-

ment and 25 per cent said responsibility lay with "public prejudice".

Big Issue vendors sell the campaigning housing magazine on designated "pitches" and retain just over the half the price of each copy.

The report says vendors still detect "great hostility" from the public, despite a general increase in sympathy for the homeless in recent years.

The homeless "were seen as druggies, lazy, dirty, alcoholics [and] drop-outs who deserved nothing more".

Four out of five vendors said their physical and mental health had improved significantly since they started selling the magazine, while 65 per cent of non-vendors felt their health was deteriorating every day.

Sixty per cent of vendors said their alcohol consump-

tion had decreased or stopped. Twenty-five per cent had stopped drinking.

Ruth Turner, spokeswoman for the Big Issue in the North-west, where the magazine sells 35,000 copies a week, said the country has never had so many registered homeless, said the magazine was delighted that its campaign was now backed by independent academic research.

"This proves to us that it does work and that self-help initiatives are very helpful," she said.

**Why is everyone talking Yakult?**

**ESCOM UK Ltd**

"On 16th March 1996 we carried an advertisement on behalf of ESCOM UK Limited. That advertisement indicated that product prices advertised became effective on 22nd February 1996.

Would all readers please be advised that this date was stated in error. The advertisement should have stated an effective date of 16th March 1996."

The unanimous perception of all vendors was that central and local government were 'poisonously prejudiced' towards them, and saw them as 'worthless vermin' who should be 'cleaned off the streets' and 'locked up'."

All vendors surveyed blamed the Government for their homelessness.

Among the jobless group, 25 per cent blamed themselves for being homeless, half blamed the Govern-

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News in brief

Ex-dictator picked as Benin president

BENIN'S former dictator, Mathieu Kerekou, the first African leader to be ousted at the ballot box, was returned to power on Monday in a stunning upset at the polls. State-run radio announced that Mr Kerekou had won 59 per cent, overwhelming President Nicéphore Soglo, who had 41 per cent of the vote in Monday's poll runoff. The vote has to be confirmed by the constitutional court. During Mr Kerekou's 17 years in power he was accused of running the economy into the ground and torturing his political opponents. But Mr Soglo's economic reforms led to inflation and unemployment that ultimately turned much of the country against him. The bulk of Mr Kerekou's support came from his native north and the tens of thousands of civil servants who lost their jobs when Mr Soglo came to power in Benin's first democratic election in 1991. Mr Kerekou's first tasks will be to convince international donors and lending institutions that he has abandoned his socialist policies and will continue the free-market system that made Benin's economy one of the fastest growing in West Africa. — AP, Cotonou, Benin.

Boycotts hit Bangladesh

BANGLADESH'S parliament opened with only one opposition chair occupied yesterday, while in a separate ceremony the prime minister, Khaleda Zia, was sworn in with all but one foreign diplomat boycotting the event. International observers found widespread irregularities in the parliamentary elections on February 15. All the main opposition parties refused to take part. Outside parliament yesterday thousands of opposition supporters clashed with police and the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles as they tried to force their way into the session. Scores of people were injured. The parliament is expected to be the shortest in Bangladesh's history. Mrs Zia, while not specifying any time frame, insisted that the only purpose of the sixth parliament would be to amend the constitution so that all future national elections could be held under a caretaker government — one of the opposition's demands. "I hope this will satisfy the opposition parties and they will all participate in the next election," she said. — Arshad Mahmud, Dhaka.

Violence grows in Bahrain

ONE of Bahrain's opposition groups, the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, has threatened to escalate violence if a death sentence on a convicted detainee is carried out by the government. The death sentence on Issa Qambar, aged 27, for the murder of a police sergeant, is the first confirmed by Bahrain's security courts since the campaign for a renewal of democracy was begun by opposition groups 15 months ago. The sentence has not yet been confirmed by the Emir, Sheikh Issa, but it has triggered demonstrations around the island, particularly at secondary schools. Residents in the capital said the authorities freed 30 Muslim Shi'ites who were arrested in connection with anti-government protests. Earlier yesterday, residents said at least three students had been arrested the previous day during protests in schools at the death sentence. — Kathy Evans and agencies.

Israel flies in Thai workers

AN AIRLIFT of workers from Thailand to Israel began yesterday with the arrival of 238 farm labourers due to take the jobs of Palestinians barred after the recent suicide bombings. "It's the beginning of the mass of workers coming now because of the situation," said Liara Fine-Hiller, an agriculture ministry official, at Tel Aviv's Ben-Gurion airport. The Thais, flown in on an El Al jet, will pick oranges, vegetables and flowers on farms. The ministry has said it planned to bring in 4,000 foreign workers to join the 73,000 — mainly from Thailand, Romania and China — already employed legally in Israel. Government officials said 100,000 unlicensed foreigners work in the country. A three-week-old Israeli closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has kept more than 70,000 Palestinians from their jobs, mainly in construction and industry. — Reuter, Tel Aviv.

Hope for Polisario Front

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela of South Africa wants to formally recognise the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic in the western Sahara, but has delayed doing so at the request of the United Nations, officials said yesterday. Raymond Sumner, chairman of the parliamentary committee on foreign affairs, told reporters he expected an exchange of ambassadors soon with the former Spanish colony, now occupied by Morocco. "I have the impression that it might be a matter of months," he said. Parks Mankahama, a presidential spokesman, confirmed that Mr Mandela had written to the leader of the Polisario Front, Mohamed Abdelaziz, offering full recognition. "The president has also written to the foreign ministry instructing them to set in motion a process to extend diplomatic recognition to the Saharan Republic," he said. But he added that Mr Mandela had delayed the process at the request of Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the UN secretary-general, who felt it could tip the balance in delicate negotiations with Morocco. — Cape Town, Reuter.



Police stand guard outside a kindergarten in Mexico City after a police helicopter chasing a carload of bank robbers crashed into the building killing three people aboard. Those inside the kindergarten escaped injury.

40 dead in second avalanche

A SECOND avalanche in five days struck a remote area of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir overnight, killing 40 people in seven houses in the village of Dikran Chack while they slept, government officials said yesterday. Snow and rain hampered rescuers, who managed to recover only eight bodies. There were no reports of survivors in the houses involved. The mountainous site, close to the military control line dividing Kashmir between India and Pakistan, is just over a mile from a hamlet where an avalanche killed at least 30 people on Friday night. Mohammed Akram Sobal, deputy commissioner in Muzaffarabad, the regional capital, said helicopters — unable to reach the village yesterday because of a snow storm — would be sent today, weather permitting. There were no plans to evacuate the area. — Reuter, Muzaffarabad.

**The Government knows how to deal with disaffected children when they grow up. Put them in prison. But in schools, where the trouble starts, we do the opposite: we chuck them out.**  
Edward Bond

Taipei shops for US arms

Martin Walker in Washington

TAIWAN told the United States yesterday that it wants to spend \$4.8 billion on new American weapons, including submarines and anti-aircraft missiles. The request, coming in the middle of the Chinese military manoeuvres off Taiwan, could sharpen China's inclination to confront the island regime and add to Washington's policy dilemma. The Pentagon supports the request on military grounds, and the state department opposes it as needlessly provocative to Beijing at a critical moment in US-Chinese relations. The final decision will have

to be made by President Clinton, and may be deferred until after Taiwan's presidential election on Saturday. Congress is expected to support the sale. Senator Jesse Helms, chairman of the foreign relations committee, and a majority of Republican congressmen have called on the White House to announce that it will use force to protect "our democratic ally, Taiwan, against bullying and aggression from Communist China". Taiwan has been outside the mainland's control for almost half a century. Beijing suspects that President Lee Teng-hui, Saturday's likely winner, aspires to formal independence. Its missile tests close to the island and war games in the Taiwan Strait are intended to show what it thinks of that.

The military situation remained tense yesterday. A foreign ministry spokesman in Beijing expressed his country's displeasure with the United States for "grossly interfering in China's internal affairs and for the brazen show of force" — a reference to Washington's decision to send two aircraft carriers to the area. The US naval task force commander, on the carrier Independence, said that the second carrier, the Nimitz, "could sail through the Taiwan Strait" when it reaches Chinese waters this week. The US defence secretary, William Perry, warned China against an attack on Taiwan, adding that the Americans had "the best damned navy in the world". Taiwan formally handed

over its arms request at a meeting yesterday with Kurt Campbell, deputy assistant defence secretary for Asian affairs, and state department officials, at the offices of the American Institute in Taiwan — the nearest Taiwan has to an embassy since the US agreed to recognise the regime in Beijing as the sole government of China. The meeting takes place every year, but Taiwan's insistence on pressing the arms request may be seen by Beijing as smacking of defiance at a time of tension. Taiwan is already one of the best customers for US weaponry. The first of 150 F-16 fighters are due for delivery this summer under a \$5.8 billion contract agreed by President Bush in 1992. Last year Taiwan spent just

over \$200 million on US Harpoon anti-air missiles and in advance payment for Patriot anti-aircraft missiles which are to be delivered in 1998. Taiwan is now asking for six Type-209 submarines, of German design but to be built in US shipyards, valued at about \$4 billion. It is also asking for Orion P-3 anti-submarine aircraft, armed with more Harpoon missiles. The shopping list includes more than 300 Stinger shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles for troops on the highly vulnerable islands of Quemoy, Matsu and Wuchu — each within 10 miles of the Chinese mainland. "Taiwan faces a significant threat of naval blockade," ran the explanation in the formal application for the new submarines, adding that the ad-

vanced and silenced German-designed subs would give the island a "significant anti-blockade capability". Taiwan does indeed face the prospect of a blockade, which would be economically devastating to a country dependent on trade, but it is more likely to be based on the threat of missiles than the presence of Chinese surface ships sealing Taiwan's ports. Any new Taiwanese submarines would be a significant deterrent to a Chinese invasion, as would the new stock of Harpoon anti-air missiles. China has a fleet of 52 mainly elderly submarines, but has just taken delivery of two relatively advanced Russian-built Kilo class attack submarines, and has two more on order.



Rescuers carry a body out of the charred ruins of the Manila disco that burnt down early yesterday, killing 150. PHOTOGRAPH: ERIK DE CASTRO

Parents look for dead as Ramos orders disco fire investigation

Reuter in Manila

A GRIM-FACED President Fidel Ramos ordered a thorough investigation into the blaze in a Manila disco in which 150 perished, and threatened to have the club's owners arrested. "You better get the owners here for investigation... If any of them refuse, I order their arrest," the president told police officers as he visited the charred ruins yesterday. Many of those killed in the fire in the Ozone disco early yesterday, mostly teenagers celebrating the start of school holidays, were trampled as more than 300 people fought desperately to reach the one door to the outside. They appeared to have suffocated before the flames got to them, firefighters said. The disco had no fire exit, they said. The cause of the blaze, which broke out just after midnight, is still being investigated. Police said only 85 corpses had been identified by late last night. Parents were still desperately trying to find out if their children were among the dead. They did not know where to search as bodies had been distributed among several mortuaries in the city. The grisly task was made more difficult by the lack of identifying jewellery and wallets, which officials had removed to prevent looting.

Whiff of adultery means death

In Pakistan's Sindh province, husbands who feel betrayed may turn swiftly into killers, writes Suzanne Goldenberg

WHEN Najma Lashari's corpse was discovered in a wasteland by a railway station in Bhai Khan Lashari village, not even her mother cried for her. "We are satisfied with this murder," said Dadi Lashari, cradling Najma's 18-month-old daughter. "This is our culture and our tradition." Najma, in her early twenties, was shot dead by her husband, Bilawal Lashari, along with a 15-year-old neighbour, in a case earlier this month. Bilawal broke both of Ashraf's arms first, and then turned himself in to police. The two were accused of karo-kari, or illicit sexual relations, and though this village of 200 huts, in which everyone is related, would ordinarily be in mourning, the shame attached to their deaths is too great. Instant killings of suspected adulterers have occurred in other parts of Pakistan. In areas of Sindh bordering Baluchistan, where the literacy rate among women is as low as 0.8 per cent, there are two such killings a day. And until recently there was little public concern about karo-kari, which comes from the Sindhi word for black. Sometimes a woman's life is spared if she manages to flee to the home of the tribal chieftain. But then her fate may be even crueler: she becomes the chieftain's property, a servant or an unwilling wife to one of his relatives. Ashraf, aged 15, was one of only a dozen boys in the village of 3,000 to make it to secondary school. His family keeps the chieftain's property, their most prized possessions. His school identification card bears the only photo they have of him. A composition he wrote in English, about his best friend,

Nadeem, gives an indication of what the alleged lover in this triangle was like. "Nadeem is my best friend because he always comes first in examinations and he is very good at cricket," Ashraf wrote in a careful hand a few days before his murder. There are three versions of the tragedy. Najma's mother, who spoke under the watchful gaze of Bilawal's uncle, said

'I have never heard of a karo-kari accused being sent to the gallows'

her daughter was kidnapped by Ashraf when she took her baby to a doctor in Dadu town. Bilawal's family said the two were running off together to Karachi, but inexplicably dalled at the railway station for two days before making their escape. Ashraf's family said they had gone off in a truckful of women and girls to attend a

marriage in the nearby town of Sehwan, and were waylaid by Bilawal. But even this simple act would be sufficient motive for murder. "My daughter's life was normal," said Dadi. "Why did she spend time in Ashraf's company? Why did she go with him to the wedding? In the Lashari Baluch tribe, we can't oppose tradition."

Other villagers believe in Ashraf's innocence, arguing that his youth and his relative poverty compared to Bilawal's family made him an unlikely rival for Najma's affections. Shabir Shaikh, the police chief of Dadu district, said: "I have never heard of the accused in a karo-kari case being taken to the gallows. Mostly they are punished for two to three years and then come out of jail." The police are often reluctant to intervene at all in cases of karo-kari because they have such strong community sanction. So there was no post-mortem before Najma and Ashraf were hastily buried, without the normal funeral rites.

A violent search for safer ground

Chris McGreal in Bukavu

FIVE central African presidents are recording a desperate attempt to persuade nearly 2 million Rwandan refugees to go home. The appeal, to be shown from the backs of lorries in refugee camps, was made at the end of a summit in Tunis hosted by Jimmy Carter, the former United States president. It is doubtful that the video will be much more than a novelty. Rwanda's Hutu refugees view most of the east with hostility. They believe the presidents of their own country, Zaire and Uganda, would just as willingly see them dead. Burundi's Hutu head of state is viewed as a Tutsi collaborator; Tanzania's president is new and unknown to the refugees. But the appeal will reaffirm the growing insecurity that has swept refugee camps along Zaire's eastern border amid repeated warnings of forced closure. The threats have helped fuel a violent search for safer ground by members of the defeated Hutu army and the Interahamwe militias which led to the genocide of Rwanda's Tutsis nearly two years ago. Hutu extremists have pushed out from the camps around Goma, taking advantage of inter-ethnic conflict to carve out new settlements. To the south, around Bukavu, where much of Rwanda's defeated army is camped, soldiers have intertwined with Burundi's increasingly effective Hutu militias — particularly the Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD), led by the former interior minister, Leonard Nyangoma. Although both groups view themselves as pursuing a common cause against Tutsi-dominated governments and armies, Burundi's militias are more interested in obtaining weapons from the Rwanda-

The cream of cooks keep it kosher

Serge Schmemmann in Jerusalem

WHEN his warriors proposed that David should become king of Israel, the Bible recounts, they threw a feast that lasted three days, with "meat, meal, cakes of figs, and bunches of raisins, and wine, and oil, and oxen, and sheep abundantly". Using that as a rough guide, Zachi Becker, programme director for Jerusalem 3000 — the year-long festival marking roughly 3,000 years since King David made Jerusalem his capital — decided to create an equally lavish feast.

using the sort of food the king would enjoy if he were around today. The equivalent of the biblical feast would include the finest dishes in the world, he decided. And all would be kosher. So 13 great chefs prepared what may have been the most elaborate kosher meal ever cooked — at least since David's three-day extravaganza. The biggest challenge was to re-create their masterpieces without dairy products, which in a kosher meal cannot be mixed with meat. So with hours to go before the sound of timbrels and harps would summon

the 300 diners to the feast, the masters experimented with margarine and non-dairy creams and glazes. Chef Gualtiero Marchesi of Erbusco, Italy, was preparing his risotto with saffron — but without parmesan. Nearby, the Cajun chef Paul Prudhomme was putting the finishing touches to his "medallions of veal Hazey" — a dish he usually makes with pork and cream. Watching over them all was Rabbi Yosef Fine, charged with enforcing the disciplines of kosher, the dietary laws, on those not accustomed to taking orders in their own kitchens. — New York Times.

arms

Nationalism has been strengthened by the flight from Sarajevo, which was engineered by hardliners in Pale, writes Julian Borger

# Serb exodus exposes Nato's failure

**A**T six o'clock yesterday morning, the city of Sarajevo was reunited after nearly four years as a divided battleground. Bosnian police walked into the last sector under Serb separatist control: an ugly district of crumbling, deserted, high-rise flats called Grbavica.

For most Sarajevans it was a moment to celebrate. Thousands could return to pre-war homes and Grbavica's tower blocks, once infested with snipers, were robbed of their awful menace. It is safe to walk through the city centre in their shadow.

But the new Sarajevo has little in common with the pre-war city — a truly cosmopolitan capital, whose residents identified more with each other than with their ethnic roots. The jigsaw pieces have been put back together, but they have been so mangled by

the war that the picture is unrecognisable. There are now only 11,000 Serbs in the horseshoe of suburbs around the capital (less than a tenth of the pre-war figure). This is a disaster, not only for nostalgic liberals. It is a crushing blow to hopes that Nato can pull out of Bosnia at the end of this year leaving behind a workable peace settlement.

The Nato deployment has succeeded in silencing the guns and separating the armies. But the Dayton peace plan also envisaged the reintegration of the country and the construction of a stable democracy. The Serb exodus, together with the widening rift in the Muslim-Croat Federation, has put those objectives even further beyond reach.

In the worst-case scenario, I-FOR, the Nato implementation force, will leave behind a country of three ethnic blocs:

each led by nationalists bent on a second war for revenge and economic control, each with its own foreign backers. I-FOR began its year-long mission determined to deal only with strictly military issues. The narrow interpretation of the mandate proved both inappropriate and ineffective. The Bosnian conflict was not just a shooting war. It was also a war of ethnic cleansing, carried out with cans of petrol and matches, at police checkpoints, through propaganda, and in late night visits by thugs in balaclavas.

Sixty thousand peacekeeping troops stopped the first war, but not the second. The exodus from Sarajevo was, on the whole, a case of Serb-on-Serb ethnic cleansing. The separatist leadership in Pale tried to engineer mass panic at the prospect of Federation rule, and thousands who wanted to stay were forced out by threats and firebombs.

**Bosnian war crimes suspects held**

**P**OLICE in Austria and Germany have arrested two Bosnian nationals suspected of war crimes against Serbs, the Austrian interior ministry said yesterday.

Both men are wanted by the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague and by authorities in rump Yugoslavia, a ministry spokesman said.

A Dutch official confirmed they were arrested at the tribunal's request. If indicted, they will be the first suspects charged for war crimes against Serb victims. — Reuter.

of Sarajevo will strengthen the hand of Muslim nationalists in the governing Party of Democratic Action (SDA), who did little to prevent the Serb departure. Party hardliners have already driven out moderates like the ex-prime minister, Haris Silajdzic.

While the "Republika Srpska" drifts towards secession, the already sour Federation is separating like curdled milk. Croat refugees are being dissuaded by nationalists in the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) from resettling in predominantly Muslim areas east of the River Bosna.

Mostar remains as divided as ever. Croat and Muslim forces have come close to confrontation in the western town of Kulen Vakuf, and checkpoints have sprung up between Muslim and Croat pockets in central Bosnia.

Continuously, a senior British officer said this week that the

present situation reminded him of early 1993, just before the eruption of a 10-month Muslim-Croat war. If I-FOR were to leave now, many believe a new interethnic conflict would be inevitable.

There is some hope that elections scheduled to take place by September will curb the power of the nationalists and halt the slide towards partition. However, it is far from clear that a poll can be arranged in the next six months which would provide Bosnians with a genuine alternative to the nationalists, who have a grip on the media in all three communities.

Given the strength of all three nationalist parties and their determination to form ethnically homogeneous fiefdoms, there was arguably little I-FOR could have done to stem the drift towards partition. But it is hard to avoid the conclusion that the force failed to use its considerable

muscle to full effect in an area widely recognised as crucial to the reconstruction of a multi-cultural society.

"Sarajevo — that is where our hope lies," said a senior Nato planner a few weeks ago. He argued that ethnic partition would trigger a struggle for territory. The landlocked Muslims, rearmed with substantial US assistance, would be sorely tempted to break out of their narrow confines.

With this in mind, Nato is planning for life after I-FOR. The force commander, Admiral Leighton Smith, spoke publicly last week about a smaller joint task force. Defence analysts say the force would still require US support for satellite communications and air power, but sufficient numbers of US ground forces could be withdrawn to satisfy American voters that the country was not being sucked into a morass.

## Kohl pins hopes on euro

**Ian Traynor in Bonn**

**C**HANCELLOR Helmut Kohl of Germany said yesterday that any delay in launching the proposed single European currency would be catastrophic for his country and would thwart his ambitious scheme to halve an employment rate by the end of the century.

Accusing the British media of "absurd distortion" of a recent speech in which he described European political union as a matter of war and peace, he reiterated his strongly-held view that European federation was a "question of destiny" and the most important issue of our times.

Any setback to the single currency project would damage his real aim, which is to push towards European political union.

"There is no political union without currency union," he said. "That was the fundamental difference between Margaret Thatcher and me. If we don't make our contribution to European unity, we will have failed before history. This is the most decisive process for this and the next century."



Speaking just over a week before EU governments begin a conference to map out the future shape and powers of the union, Mr Kohl made it plain that he was seeking some respite from his domestic economic and employment woes in his integrationist schemes for Europe.

The single currency is due to be launched at the beginning of 1999. Next year's economic performances will determine which countries are fit to join.

German unemployment is soaring to post-war highs, through the 4-million mark and heading towards 5 million. This, combined with

**'The government is no longer master of the situation. It is left helpless facing the impact of its own wrong economic and financial policies'**

**Oskar Lafontaine**

budget and revenue problems is making it increasingly doubtful whether Germany, the strongest backer of the single currency, will itself meet the terms.

"If currency union fails because of Germany, that would have catastrophic consequences for us," he said.

The main risk was that the foreign exchanges, in the absence of a common currency, would seek a safe haven in the German mark, causing it to gain further in value against the dollar and hurting German exports, on which the slender hopes of an economic recovery are pinned.

Earlier this year Mr Kohl outlined plans to halve unemployment to 2 million by the turn of the century, though it is a rare independent analyst who expects him to succeed.

While Mr Kohl stressed that currency union was critical to Germany's economic prospects, the opposition Social Democrats accused the chancellor of having lost control of his own policies.

"Mass unemployment, billions missing in the future, uncertainty over the future of pensions — all this shows that the government is no longer the master of the situation. It is left helpless facing the impact of its own wrong economic and financial policies," a statement from the SPD leadership said.

Oskar Lafontaine, the party leader, accused the government of paralysis and reluctance to take the tough decisions needed to get to grips with the jobs crisis.

● The German government decided yesterday to deport alleged Kurdish activists involved in the weekend rioting in which 400 people, including 40 police, were injured. The cabinet decided that the "terrorist" ringleaders had to be expelled as quickly as possible.



Farmers and the bells... Thousands of farmers march through Athens shaking cow bells and chanting slogans as they call for higher EU produce prices. PHOTOGRAPH: ARS SAHS

## Malian refugees occupy church

**Alex Duval Smith in Paris**

**F**OUR hundred refugees facing expulsion yesterday occupied a parish church in Paris to protest at the toughening of immigration procedures.

The occupation — in which demonstrators could at any moment be led to airports for expulsion — comes as the French interior minister, Jean-Louis Debré, is set to create new restrictions.

The refugees who on Monday morning entered the church of Saint-Ambroise in central Paris, are calling only for their own cases to be considered urgently, and want a mediator from the interior ministry to be appointed.

The parish priest, Jean-Samuel Mahamadou, a 40-year-old builder, said: "My papers are not in order, neither are those of most people here. We are tired of living in fear, day and night, of police breaking my door down and leading me to the airport."

Like Mr Mahamadou, most of the refugees are originally from Mali and have seen their residence status alter with the immigration law reforms of successive governments.

A French interior ministry spokesman refused to indicate whether a mediator would be appointed. Yesterday afternoon there were rumours riot police had been ordered to clear the church.

The parish priest, Jean-Pierre Caveau, showed only reluctant support. He said: "The demonstrators' distress deserves to be taken into account but we have to be able to ensure their safety and that of churches."

Mr Mahamadou said: "Every hour, new people are arriving. It is happening by word of mouth. The more of us there are, the better we shall be able to resist."

Among the changes in immigration law expected will be the creation of a list of the hosts who sponsor newly arrived immigrants. According to the newspaper Libération, the hosts will be compelled to take out private insurance policies for their visitors.

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### News in brief

#### New danger at Chernobyl

Radioactive elements are seeping from around the Chernobyl nuclear plant into uncontaminated areas through the groundwater. Kostyantyn Rudyk, Ukraine's first deputy environment minister, warned yesterday.

"A slow but steady 'leak' of caesium and strontium is coming from the Prip'yat river, located right next to the Chernobyl plant, into the Dniepr basin," he said. Nearly two-thirds of the population gets its drinking water from the Dniepr river, which runs the length of Ukraine. — AP.

#### Coma birth

A woman who was raped while in a coma had a premature baby on Monday in what doctors believe is the first case of someone becoming pregnant and giving birth in a chronic vegetative state. The 21b 11oz boy was born naturally and appeared to be doing well, a doctor said. The mother was unchanged. — AP.

#### Refugees killed

Sri Lankan helicopter gunships fired on a group of Tamil refugees in a camp 160

#### Islamist re-elected

Voters in Sudan elected the government's supposed eminence grise, Islamic cleric Hassan Turabi, and several government ministers to the new parliament, according to initial returns announced yesterday. First results in the presidential race are expected today. — AP.

#### Machinegun deal

Singapore and Malaysia agreed yesterday to step up cooperation in their defence industries and study a joint venture to produce 12.7mm ammunition for machineguns. The deal paves the way for production of larger calibre ammunition. — AP.

#### Poll date in India

India's Election Commission announced yesterday that voting will begin on April 27 for a new government. It said voting will be held on April 27, May 2, 7 and 31 to allow security forces to protect India's 590 million registered voters. — AP.

## US radio broadcasts to Cuba 'shaped by hardline exiles'

**Mark Matthews in Washington**

**R**ADIO MARTI, the United States government station financed by the United States government to broadcast to Cuba, is unduly influenced by hardline Cuban exiles, according to sources close to an investigation by the inspector-general of the US information agency (USIA), Marian Bennett.

Political pressure has resulted in unbalanced news broadcasts and improper promotion and demotion of staff, according to agency documents and officials.

A number of employees have pointed to Jorge Mas Canosa, head of the Cuban American National Foundation and chairman of Radio Marti's advisory panel, as the source of the pressure.

Mr Mas Canosa, who lives in Miami, favours stepped-up American efforts to topple Fidel Castro's regime. The investigation is nearing completion at a time of turmoil inside the station and in US policy toward Dr Castro. Congress is legisla-

ing to move Radio Marti from Washington to South Florida, a move which critics say would increase the control of anti-Castro Cuban-American leaders such as Mr Mas Canosa.

Critics say they fear the station's credibility will suffer if it is seen as being the instrument of Cuban exiles.

The Miami community's considerable influence on coverage of American policy toward Cuba drew complaints last year from Joseph Duffey, head of the USIA, and Joseph Sullivan, head of the US diplomatic mission in Havana.

Mr Bennett's investigation, which began more than 18 months ago, has been prolonged because some of the subjects, including Mr Mas Canosa, have refused to co-operate.

The investigation began in 1994 when Bruce Sherman, Radio Marti's deputy director, was stripped of much of his authority after complaining about Mr Mas Canosa's influence over the station's news director, Augustin Alles. — Baltimore Sun.

## Making the CAP fit at last Don't use the agriculture underspend for tax cuts

IT IS a common presumption that if Europe ever gets its agricultural spending under control then it won't be long before pigs start flying (and without subsidies). Yet this remarkable event — the fall in spending, not the pigs — seems at long last to be happening. According to our report today, a confidential paper being presented to the European Commission states that underspending in the EU farm budget could total more than £3.6 billion over the next three years.

This has happened as a result of movements in world prices, the reforms agreed to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in 1992 and the GATT reforms outlawing export subsidies. This underspend is still pretty small beer compared with the EU's total budget of over £50 billion a year but it is a giant stride in the right direction. The CAP used to be a rollicking success when it turned Europe's post-war food shortage into a surplus but for the past couple of decades it has been an increasing political and economic embarrassment. It evolved into a ludicrous system which encouraged farmers to garner open-ended EC subsidies by producing mountains of cereals and other foods which no one in the industrialised world wanted — and hardly any of which found its way into starving Third World mouths. Worse than that, the EU seemed unable to sublimate the energies — and the cash — of the CAP into something else which could enmesh some people, particularly the young, with hope for the future of the whole European project.

Now that the grain mountains have fallen and the milk lakes subsided, it ought to cut some of the ground away from the Eurosceptics — especially as the annual cost to Britain (in net contributions) of EU membership has now fallen to only £16 per capita. This is a dramatic reduction from 10 years ago

when it averaged several hundred pounds a head and in terms of the league table it places Britain behind seven other EU countries including France and Germany. But instead of pouring balm on the debate about EU membership, the fall in spending is more likely to re-ignite it. The Government, pressurised by its Eurosceptic flank, will demand that "our" surplus be returned to the UK so it can be recycled as tax cuts, preferably before the next election while the Commission will want the underspend on agriculture to be diverted to other European projects.

In this case the Commission is dead right. The antiquated CAP still gobbles up half of the EU's £57.4 billion total budget. What Europe urgently needs now is to improve its transport and technological infrastructure so it can boost employment and improve its long-term competitiveness with the rest of the world. This is far more important than attempts to shoehorn every country into monetary union, no matter how noble that may be as an ultimate end. If the EU could repeat its early success with the CAP in other areas it could rekindle flagging Euroidealism and give member countries something new to work towards. But to do this the EU must work out a proper long-term exit strategy from the excesses of the CAP and ensure that never again will it or its successor be permitted to devour so much of Europe's resources in such a profligate way.

The CAP will always have a special place in the history of European unity. For a long time it proved that Europe could be greater than the sum of its parts. But in recent years, feeding off its own excesses, it has become a symbol of all that is wrong with pan-European cooperation. That is why Europe must continue to recycle CAP money into other European priorities. That battle has only just begun.

## Grass and the whiff of hypocrisy

Judge Michael Mott has brought the law into disrepute

WHILE the Chief Investigations Officer of Customs and Excise was announcing record seizures of heroin to journalists in London on Monday, another law officer was making a rather different pronouncement in Worcester crown court. Judge Michael Mott was jailing a man who had published a book on how to grow cannabis. The offence was "incitement" and the penalty twelve months in jail.

Tony Newton, the Cabinet minister responsible for coordinating the anti-drugs campaign said at the Customs press conference that Britain was now "awash" with drugs. He added that to reduce the supply we had to reduce demand "especially among young people."

What could be more calculated to bring the law and warnings about drugs into disrepute among young people than the prosecution and jailing of someone whose offence was to produce a guide to the growing and harvesting of a plant? While our senior Customs officers warn of a heroin glut, our police officers are despatched to raid the village home of Michael Marlow, a man who has sold fewer than 500 copies of a book giving information that has been freely available in this country and throughout the world for many years. Surely a man who reduces the profits of drug dealers should be a hero? He is now despatched into a system, a third of whose inhabitants use drugs, for the purpose of punishment and "rehabilitation."

Ministers and senior police officers routinely say that their aim is to target the dealers of hard drugs rather than the users of soft drugs. The figures tell a rather different story. Of all arrests for drugs in the last annual figures, 88 per cent were for cannabis offences. The lurking suspicion is that on these times of "performance indicators" within the police service soft drug users make a soft target.

But there are two other issues here: Mr Marlow was charged with "incitement." We have had the 1797 Incitement to Mutiny Act and the 1934 Incitement to Disaffection Act but who within the criminal prosecution service (CPS) deemed the production of a gardening book worthy of such treatment? If such a volume is now deemed so inflammatory, where does that place magazines and newspapers that have published the views of those who favour cannabis legalisation? Are we to see prosecutions of the Spectator and the Daily Telegraph? What about T-shirts with drug messages or ear-rings designed in the shape of cannabis leaves? Should they now be seized?

We all saw how swiftly Clare Short was shut up when she made the perfectly reasonable suggestion, during a television interview last year, of a debate on the laws regarding cannabis. Now we have moved into a world where a judge is ordering the incarceration of a book on the subject. The pungent aroma that comes from this sorry bonfire is the strong whiff of hypocrisy.

## Claudio Abbado's classic weepies

Compilations represent popularisation, not compromise

CLAUDIO ABBADO may be a great conductor, but he is out of touch with the values of the recording industry. Mr Abbado, chief conductor of the mighty Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, is bringing a law suit against the Deutsche Grammophon record company. He wants to stop production of a collection of his performances of Mahler Adagios. Mr Abbado believes these slow movements should be heard as parts of complete symphonies, not all together on a compilation album.

This dispute epitomises the "quill-popper" cultural debate in all the arts. When the left-wing Mr Abbado ran La Scala 20 years ago he took the company into the factories to bring opera to the workers. He has always been an opponent of cultural snobbishness. But popularisation Abbado-style means opening up the arts to the people. It does not mean compromising them to make them more popular.

Like it or not, that is not the world we live in. Mr Abbado should look at the classical charts. Almost all the top 30 albums are compilations. As usual "Various artists" has the number one slot (as well as twelve others in the 30). The discs have titles like Passion. Love, Tranquillity, Classic Weepies — and even Adagio, conducted by Herbert von Karajan, a man with fewer scruples.

Mr Abbado is a principled idealist. Yet he should not despair. The industry may be tacky, but records boost the wider audience. The success of the film Death in Venice (featuring the adagio of Mahler's Fifth) boosted a market for Mahler which meant Mr Abbado could record all the symphonies. If a compilation disc allows more people to hear Mr Abbado's awesome rendering of the adagio of the Ninth, then the sum total of the world's experience will definitely have been increased not diminished.



## Letters to the Editor

### There is an alternative

THE Alternative Vote would, as Hugo Young rightly argues (Commons March 19), add welcome electoral-reform dimension to Tony Blair's constitutional agenda.

Although it does not satisfy proportional-representation purists, the AV is the only system which retains the existing single-member constituencies which are still valued by voters. The other PR options require either monster constituencies or centralised party lists or an awkward combination of constituency and list-based MPs, all of which break the vital democratic principle of local accountability.

There are good precedents for Tony Blair. Labour supported AV around and after the first world war and carried it through the Commons in 1931 before it fell in the Lords. It is used in the Australian House of Representatives.

It is simple rather than placing a mark against a single candidate, and carried the candidates listed in order of preference (eg 1st: Labour; 2nd: Liberal; 3rd: Green). Other advantages: it is

fairer than first-past-the-post; each MP would have to secure at least 50 per cent of the vote; there is less scope for "wasted" votes because electors could state their real preference; there would be less geographical bias; it is easier to form minority governments than under FR; it does not require controversial boundary changes; by-elections are easy to organise.

Finally, it is also the only option the Commons would probably back, since MPs are hardly likely to vote themselves out of their own seats. Peter Hain MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

IT IS good news that Labour and the LibDems look like they are co-operating, over proportional voting. What is bad news though is the Alternative Vote system.

Our party (as well as others like the Greens) will once again find it disproportionately difficult to secure representation for our voters, even though we achieved up to 6 per cent in the seats we contested at the 1994 Euro-elections. Surely the way forward

is for all political parties to agree to an independent review of the voting system. Just as MPs should agree to an independent review of what they are paid, surely they should agree to an independent review of the way they get their jobs.

Paul Macdonald, Campaign Director, The Liberal Party, 22 Gayfere Street, London SW1P 3HP.

HUGO YOUNG underestimates the effect of the Alternative Vote system. Of course, it is not strictly proportional, but it does have two additional advantages.

The need for tactical voting is removed — it would be automatic. And voters can vote for the preferred candidate without fear of letting their least favoured candidate win by default. These two factors would increase votes for minority parties, which could then build on that support. I, along with many other party members, think Tony Blair should give active support. David Thomas, Brynbo Road, Bwlchgwyn L41 5UB.

### Post-Dunblane, we should be gunning for the arms trade

HAVE held a firearms certificate for 30 years (Letters, March 18). Up to and immediately after Hungerford, the police visited you one month before the expiry of the certificate. They inspected the rifle and, after Hungerford, inspected the steel locker in which the weapon(s) and ammunition were kept. This gave them an opportunity to assess you afresh. If all was well, you received a certificate valid for three years.

When I renewed my firearms certificate three years ago, no firearms officer came to inspect my firearm and the conditions of use had been changed to allow me to use it on any land which the police have approved as safe, providing I had the permission of the landowner. Name and address supplied.

WHAT an eerie, tragic, nerve-chilling juxtaposition of front-page articles (March 19). "Nation stops to mourn" — The Queen, King and shops fell silent for the dead of Dunblane" alongside "GEC in £5bn Middle East arms deal". Was this astonishing lateral thinking and editing? Or just an accidental arrangement of news items on arms and slaughter? (Rev) Philip Seddon, The School of Mission and World Christianity, Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham B29 6LR.

ACCEPT that if a mentally imbalanced person sets out to commit murder, there is very little that society can do to prevent it, but I do not ac-

cept that society should make the weapons for his act available.

I have not heard one convincing argument for the public to be allowed to keep guns in their homes. Even servicemen are not allowed to keep their weapons unless in an operational situation. Does a farmer really need a shotgun at hand 24 hours a day to keep pigeons off his seed? The situation is being looked at from the wrong angle. People should be obliged to demonstrate a need to keep a gun in their homes. Once they have been authorised, there must be regular checks. Weapon manufacturers could also be brought into the monitoring process — all weapons should have serial numbers and their whereabouts should be tracked and reported to the police. Guns are designed to kill. They must be treated as such.

D J Skillman, 16 Jenner Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3PP.

AS politicians seem to agree that arms should be decommissioned in Northern Ireland, does that mean that most of the 100,000 licensed guns held there are going to be handed in? And does anybody know why 10 per cent of the electorate in Northern Ireland have gun licences when police forces in the rest of the UK have issued licences to some 250,000 people, a fraction of one per cent of the electorate? Seán Goodwin-Cullen, 176 Latymer Court, London W6 0NS.

### Graffiti artist is written off

I WAS interested to read the letter from Angela Noble, mother of Simon Sunderland (March 16), claiming that her son carried out most of his "work" on derelict and now demolished sites and "out of the way places".

I live in the suburbs of northern Sheffield and there appears to be scarcely a bus, street or bus shelter that her son has not "worked" on. Most of us take a pride in our city (and appreciate art) but the sight of her son's tag scribbled across our personal and communal property has been intolerable, not to mention the fact that our council tax could have been better spent than cleaning up the eyesores he left.

I have a son of my own. I am trying to raise him to have respect for his commu-

nity, environment and other people's property.

Perhaps if Simon Sunderland had been taught these lessons he might now be at art college instead of in prison. As it is, the prison sentence, fair or not, hopelessly will dissuade others from such vandalism. Hillary Law, Bourne Road, Sheffield S5 7UE.

SIMON Sunderland is quoted as saying that his so-called work gave him a warm glow when his work was seen by millions. Well, it gives me a warm glow to know that he won't be doing it for a while. Nicola Watson, Whitehouse Road, Walkley, Sheffield S6 2WB.

### Shells fired over Taiwan

JOHN GITTINGS (One China too many, March 12) implicitly holds President Lee Teng-hui responsible for the UN and his visit to the United States responsible for China's recent military exercises near Taiwan.

This statement is unfair and misleading. There are precedents of parallel representation for two Germans in the past and for the two Koreas now. Like China, Germany was divided along a sharp ideological line and desired eventual reunification. Germany has achieved it, proving that parallel representation does not hinder reunification or perpetuate divisions. Taiwan's desire to participate in the international community doesn't justify China's provocative military exercises. The basic human rights and dignity of the 21 million people of the Republic of China should be respected and protected. Calvin Chen, Director, Press Division, Taipei Representative Office, 50 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0EB.

YOUR front page (March 12) carries a photograph of a Taiwanese election poster depicting KMT presidential candidate Lee Teng-hui as the caped crusader deflecting mainland missiles. Not even Superman is infallible, however: for the record, the characters on the poster which you fantasised as "fighting one battle after another" are simply the name of Lee's running mate, Lien Chan, the current premier. Don Gasper, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Taipei.

WHEN Patrick Wintour dictated over the telephone his copy from the Liberal Democrat Nottingham conference (Labour's "thought police" attacked, March 18), Labour's policies which "punish the sinner but ignore the sin" became those which "punish the thinner but ignore the thin". Patrick and I may well both be techno-phobes, but I must scotch any rumour that the Liberal Democrats may be "thinist". Judith Fryer, Head of Press, Liberal Democrats, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

Please include a full postal address, even an e-mailed letters, and a telephone number.



### Why the Guardian is so wet

JUST as in Los Angeles, a similar body of interested groups and individuals, The Friends of the Fleet, is battling to have London's second river, the Fleet, restored to the city (Creek freaks and anglers plead for LA's forgotten river, March 18).

We want to convert Farringdon Road back into the course of the old Fleet River and in so doing create a waterway resembling an attractive Amsterdam canal street. After all, London is built around some 22 rivers, all feeding into the River Thames as tributaries. The city's true character is completely more watery than we might be led to believe from the evidence left us by Victorian engineers who, throughout the middle and latter parts of the last century, were driven by a drain-

building frenzy to sink nearly all of London's river systems into conduits.

The Victorians condemned the Fleet, by then no more than a large sewer, to an iron drain and bequeathed us Farringdon Road. Today this thoroughfare forms a depressing conduit for traffic from sad Kings Cross to the river of traffic which is today's Embankment. Yet, on days of low tide and high rainfall, the Fleet can still be seen, as a vigorous discharge into the Thames.

This need no longer be the case. We have the technology to bring back the River Fleet and with it a better quality of life to a burgeoning quarter of the city. Simon Rodway, The Lost Rivers of London, 22 Macleod Road, London W14.

### When it's worth waking up

YOUR piece ("Vegetative" patient wakes up after seven years, March 16) fails to consider whether this is necessarily good news for the patients concerned, or their relatives. Much depends surely upon the progress they make towards a good quality of life. Few, I imagine, would welcome a lifetime of communication "via a computer and a buzzer" as in the case of the brain-damaged musician.

It may be worse to become aware of one's situation, if it is desperate. This report may provide ammunition for the pro-life movement and thereby thwart the hopes of terminally ill patients of a dignified death. A M Young, South Rise, Cardiff CF4 5RH.

REMEMBER how easy it was for doctors to turn off my brother's life-support machine after his final bungled suicide attempt. It seems that because he suffered from a "severe mental illness" (never before diag-

nosed as such), and if he regained consciousness he would have physical disabilities that would add to his torment, there was no problem. The artificial feeding and the drugs were stopped: after all, who wants to bother with a badly-behaved psychiatric case who kept trying to do himself in? Name and address supplied.

### Wells done

CONGRATULATIONS on your scoop (Lost in time, H G Wells's secret life-saver, March 18) about H G Wells's invention of the ammunition overhead railway of the 1914 war. But it is astonishing that the War Office patented his idea and used it without ever telling him, and very sad that he died without knowing that he had saved many lives and helped the Allied war effort. Peter Lonsdale, Treasurer, The H G Wells Society, 15 Dunsmore Road, London N16 5PT.

### A Country Diary

COLLEGE LAKE, CHILTURNS: Only a few days till the official first day of spring, and even the south-facing slopes of College Lake can boast nothing more seasonally portentous than a few coltsfoot. College Lake, in the Chiltrens, began life as a chalk quarry, long before the days of planning regulations. About 10 years ago, the owners, Castle Cement, allowed one of the employees to create a small marshy reserve in one corner of the naturally flooded excavations. The project took off and, now the quarry has been abandoned, the reserve contains hundreds of acres of open water, marsh and grassland. The birds are remarkable and often upstage those at the older Tiring Reservoirs next door. In various winters there have been red kites, peregrines, and short-eared owls hawking over the rough grassland. Today, with a pearly sun and the temperature only just in double figures, they are more mundane, but still heartening. I count 10

snipe probing the flooded meadows that used to be the quarry floor. There is a scatter of wintering waders — teal, wigeon, gadwall — and flashes of kingfisher. In a few weeks' time, common terns will be arriving to nest on the mud islands in the lake. It is the topography itself that I find most extraordinary. College Lake is a chimera, a landscape hybrid, a fen halfway up a chalk hill. Yet despite these ancient echoes and deep roots, its future isn't secure. The company have just closed another quarry nearby, and, maybe feeling they have done their bit for conservation, want to exploit it as a landfill site, despite the fact that the abandoned hole has already evolved spontaneously into a vast turquoise lagoon, alive with waders. The issue is halfway through a public inquiry, and the sanction ominously hanging in the wind is Castle Cement's insistence that they are refused permission, they will sell College Lake. RICHARD MABEY



Diary  
Joanna Coles

As you may have read in the paper yesterday, my good friend Taki-George... who continues to impress by jolting weekly columns in between waiting tables down The Good Kehab... has an admirable nose for hypocrisy. Allow me, if you will, to indulge you with one such example: "Last week I read an interview with Lady Brockett and nearly threw up," he complains in this week's oeuvre. "I particularly like how she excuses taking cocaine. She experiments when she was a model. Oh, is that what they call it... Has this woman no shame?" Taki-G is quite right, of course: it is a lamentable excuse. When arrested at Heathrow with an entire trunk of the stuff himself, his own explanation was far more imaginative. As he told the court before his trip to Penitentiary: "I move in social circles where cocaine is used at dinner parties in the same way as the ordinary person would take wine."

YOU might think that after the calamitous theft of Bob Monkhouse's joke file — which, strangely has never resurfaced — the BBC would take the threat of intruders seriously. Worrying then to hear that Daisy Goodwin, editor of Home Front and the splendid magazine, had some difficulty arising any interest last week when she saw two intruders breaking and entering TV Centre. Goodwin immediately summoned the good officers of Rentokil, who curiously now provide the BBC with its security staff. Alas, instead of pursuing the strangers, the security staff rounded on Goodwin. Where, they growled, was her security pass? Goodwin apologised, said she had left it at home, whereupon the officers then folded their arms and embarked upon a lengthy lecture about security. Meanwhile, the two intruders escaped — the size of their stash unknown. The licence-payer can only marvel at such vigilance.

MORE exciting details have emerged about the top-secret lunch held recently at Chequers for Charles Moore and his Telegraph boys — including, curiously, my old friend Boris the Jackal Johnson, his uncle Frank and Dominic Lawson. No sooner had the luncheon of boiled potatoes, half a water-lily tomato, some wedges of iceberg lettuce and Spain been cleared away than the Prime Minister coughed politely and announced to the assembled hacks that he would "now like to avail you of an opportunity to make lettuce and Spain more comfortable". After some confusion, it soon became clear this was in fact an invitation to use the Chequers "facilities", to which each hack would be accompanied by a Cabinet minister. Mr Major had been warned the backs might feign need of the bathroom and start snooping. The Diary applauds such precautions.

BRIAN Leveson QC was arguing against an appeal for Rosemary West yesterday. Pulling himself up to his full robed height, he grandly asked the court to consider the examples of "the Moors murderers and the late Jeremy Thorpe". "I'll, I think," corrected Lord Justice Taylor quickly. "But not dead."

I AM sorry to hear my friend the playwright David Hare has turned a little petulant of late. Not only has he stamped his loafers and insisted his name be removed from the shortlist of the Lloyds Bank Daywright of the Year — declaring somewhat presumptuously that the prize should go to a younger man — but he is now demanding his name be removed from the prize's promotional literature. As Lloyds had already printed the shortlist before the great writer threw his wobbly, the bank has been forced to reprint everything at a cost of £25,000 — the same amount incidentally at the prize itself. No point in thinking what that could have done for a struggling writer.

LETTER sent to Taunton Post Office last month has been returned to its sender, Joan Cross. On the envelope was written: Address Unknown.



# Time-bomb ticks away on the wards

## Commentary Will Hutton

ONE OF Britain's largest employers is confronting a financial crisis. Survival will demand massive restructuring, job losses, pay cuts and a major change in its modus operandi — unless the rules are changed fast. The problem is simple. The industry's income is static and outside its control; the demand for its products is rising continuously; and its controlling shareholder has placed new and demanding financial obligations upon it. No industry can survive the strain for long — and this will be no exception. This, extraordinarily, is the position of today's National Health Service. NHS Trusts are operating under a new accounting regime that has been scarcely discussed or explored — but which is proving to be perhaps the most important element in the NHS reforms. Only last week the Health Secretary Stephen Dorritt betrayed the growing alarm of insiders when he

isolated for the Government to stand behind the debts of an NHS Trust if it is wound up — an action forced on him by the deterioration in the trusts' finances. Potential private-sector partners were running scared. The heart of the problem is that the trusts have an impossible financial framework. Just like British Rail of yore or the Post Office, the trusts are expected to make a return of 6 per cent on their assets from "doing business" as hospitals. On top they have to service their arbitrarily allocated debt and make a dividend payment to the Government as their shareholder. An organisation that used to operate as an arm of government has been turned into a de facto public corporation — "corporatised" — but with two additional and deadly twists. The assets on which NHS trusts have to make the 6 per cent return are priced at full market value and are regularly revalued — and the income out of which they have to generate the additional surplus is barely growing in real terms. A benchmark for comparison is water privatisation. The water companies' assets were valued at £8.9 billion but they were gifted to them at a value of only £2.2 billion; \$4.9 billion of debts were written off, and the regulator then allowed the companies to increase prices to generate income. They be-

came lush profit centres. By contrast the poor NHS trusts have been saddled with £10.3 billion of assets without any concession over the valuation, no debts have been written off, and the growth of income is only marginally above inflation. Only the treatment of the universities rivals it for rank inequity and meanness. But the impact on the running of the trusts and their financial future is profound. As Dr Jean Shaoul of the University of Manchester's Department of Accounting shows in a fascinating working paper, NHS Trusts — A Capital Way Of Operating, trusts on average spend 86 per cent of their income on labour after they have paid for bought-in medical goods and services. What is left is the surplus which the trusts use to service their new obligations; the depreciation of the capital stock and the interest and dividends which are paid to the Government. BUT given the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme, under which drug companies are permitted to charge prices to give them 20 per cent rates of return, there is very little scope to generate any surplus from reducing the price of bought-in goods. The only place to look for savings is to lower labour costs by changing the mix of cases

and improving the flow of patients through the hospital — or alternatively to lower the payroll and wage rates. Yet the NHS is far from inefficient, as Jean Shaoul shows by financially comparing the NHS trusts' performance with both the chief private hospital groups and some well-known British retailers. NHS trusts are more than twice as efficient in adding value, after making outside purchases, as either Tesco or Trust House Forte, with even Marks & Spencer slightly lagging. As for hospitals, trusts are again twice as efficient as BHS — so that only General Healthcare Hospitals, on her calculations, can match them. In any case private hospitals are smaller and do not provide the full range of acute-care treatment; they charge premium rates for less expensive operations, thus boosting their income and lowering their costs simultaneously. Yet so efficient have NHS trusts become in raising patient throughput and holding down the wages of nurses, administrative and clerical staff, they have raised their financial efficiency ratios above those of private hospitals and retailers alike. But, curiously, the new accounting system makes it ever harder to improve on that efficiency. If a trust wants to restructure by closing down a ward, for example, under the rules it still has to make returns on the now defunct asset while if it wants to invest in new equipment it risks its income not being raised commensurately by the Treasury so that it has to earn returns on a higher asset base but with less proportionate income. The only way out is to turn hospitals more and more into sweat shops, contracting out services where possible, discharging patients early and preferring to treat acute short-stay cases rather

than the chronically ill. This may be efficient in the narrow sense, but, as Shaoul argues, "it is hard to reconcile with the notion of universal social and public healthcare provision". And even so the financial position of the trusts is weak and weakening. Last week, for example, the financial consultancy Cf Consulting showed that on a composite measure of financial stability 73 out of England's 419 trusts scored worryingly badly. Jean Shaoul warns that as the property market recovers, increasing the value of NHS assets, there is a mechanical upward ratchet on the returns they are required to make — but their income is hardly rising. Thus the next government, on current spending plans, will confront a looming financial crisis — from which there are only two logical responses, given how far the reforms have now gone. The first is full privatisation, writing down the trusts' assets and relieving them of their debts as a necessary precondition. As unencumbered private firms they could then sell their services to health users who would pay using private insurance. It would be the end of the NHS and the dream of universal health provision; but it would be one way of raising extra resources and staving off disaster. The second is to modify the reforms, raise taxation and increase the NHS's resources, so that the NHS can be reconfigured, income boosted and the trusts given powers to borrow independently as self-governing corporations. But the one option that is impossible is to maintain the status quo.

NHS Trusts — A Capital Way Of Operating, by Dr Jean Shaoul, Dept of Accounting and Finance, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL.

# There's always England

Pulp, Blur, the Lightning Seeds — the phenomenon of Britpop has John Redwood hooked. It is typical of a distinct British culture that our politicians must defend

FOR ME to be writing about Britpop might seem about as likely as John Prescott writing an article on how much he appreciates the Latin verse of Virgil, or Paddy Ashdown giving lectures on the secrets of faithfulness in marriage. I don't sing Oasis hits in the bath, nor do you catch me humming Supergrass behind the Speaker's chair in the hope that Clare Short may be impressed.

Let me declare firmly in advance my lack of credentials. I do not admire middle-aged trendies who pretend to a second teenage by strenuously enjoying modern stars. Nor do I sympathise with time-warpers who think that their era was the only one, scorning all that has come after. My generation was brought up on the Rolling Stones and Dave Dee, the Beach Boys and Jimi Hendrix. They served their turn then. I always prefer the music of the 60s, as they gently made fun of the whole thing. I am not sorry that the era of the Stones has passed. I didn't like them much in the 60s, and like them even less now. Yet today we have a number of good bands carrying the sounds of Britain around the world, just as they did in the 60s. Pulp are not in a different class. You may be fuming that there can be no comparison between the here and now and the Beatles. It's true the Beatles pioneered, and it's true they even received a mention from the Times music critic when that was still a great privilege. The later Beatles did draw on musical traditions with a versatility and enjoyment that was different. Their world of firsts, from Molly, of Sergeant Pepper, of Yellow Submarine and Abbey Road impressed itself on the subconscious of more than one generation. Contemporary groups at their best capture more of the spirit. Mr Johnson's car getting its weekend shine with Lisa in the garden are reminiscent of Molly's singing and Desmond's market stall. The Lightning Seeds reassure us there is still an England, and that English sky. There is a time and a place, here, for jollification. Madonna may be giving some of you something to remember: the rest of us would rather forget or not hear it in the first place. For me, I'll stick to the English Lightning Seeds. Who knows? In this long winter for Conservatism they might even be singing a double entendre message to us Tories. They say: "Everyting's blue now, oh lucky you... there's nothing to lose". Are they trying to warn us about a Blair government when they sing "A change in style for a little while is only make believe... Don't ever change your mind... They are right that there is



too much needless change. We can't make everyone drink warm beer if they prefer cool lager, and we can't make a policy out of nostalgia. But we can defend Britain against senseless change against political vandalism which would demolish our constitution, giving away powers to Frankfurt and Brussels. We could halt the rage of managerialism, busily reorganising every hospital and jargonising every old people's home. "Things could be marvellous" if only we did that. There is a group called Blair who sum up New Labour's quandary. My youthful advisers tell me they do not pass muster. They sing quietly: "What do you need from life? I've been red and I've been yellow; You've got to believe it. Tony Blair, once red and yellow, perhaps he likes the lightning seeds as well, but he'll literally their injunction "to open the window and jump into the blue". He may find more and more in his party do not want to jump with him. Fine for them if he wins the election, but can he be serious about carrying out all those right-wing policies? Britain's position in the modern world rests on the English language and our grasp of the world of media, multimedia and scientific advance. In the 60s as our gunboats showed our impotence

outside Rhodesia, we took solace in the power of our best groups. Meanwhile the Beatles stamped their authority on a world changing from military service to lower power in less than a generation. Carnaby Street waxed as gentlemen's clubs waned. Today Britain's influence is considerable. Winning on our own in the Falklands, and helping the US to win the Gulf, re-established some pride. English is barnstorming its way to becoming the world language. In the world of Coke and Hollywood, is there any room for a distinctive Britain as opposed to American culture? Aren't we now just a tourist attraction in the world market, a home for Beefeaters, the Tower of London and Hampton Court? Aren't we fast approaching the time when in the world theme park the ages and times will blur, as Beatles music, Churchill, Shakespeare and the two princes of the Tower all come to reside in that dead world of the past? I do not think so. There is still a lively cultural heart ticking away in the UK. I see it in the new beauty of our modern brick buildings, now we have thrown off the mechanical ugliness of Le Corbusier and the French concrete tradition. We have absorbed fast food, westerns and jeans like everywhere else, but we have added our own distinctive British humour. Where once British engineers built bridges and railways for an empire and abroad, today British software designers make CDs and discs for the world's Internet. Blur's mordant criticism of modern follies in sleazy language is part of our times. Mr Robinson, the quango king, is a dirty dealer with an expensive car. Even I can work out that this group is not too enamoured of the Conservative cause. I am not sure they would be too happy with Tony Blair either. I apologise to the Lightning Seeds for taking the debate on the NHS, which have only one message — believe that all publicity is good publicity. Smile: you're in the world market. I'm off to listen to Handel's water music. Now there is real English jollification for you that will last and last.

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## Didn't we have a lovely time the day we went from Bradford?

Martin Wainwright reminisces about the great Yorkshire drought evacuation of '95 — the one Yorkshire Water warned about

T GREAT evacuation of Bradford? Aye, lad, 'appen I remember it well. The doesn't forget seeing 20,000 Wallace Arnold coaches lined up on Leeds Road in a hurry. Nor the little kiddies, each with their mineral-water bottle on a smart new shoulder strap. I believe every one had a personal message on the label — something like: "If you see any water, grab it," signed by Sir Gordon Jones. Or was it Trevor Newton? No, no — he was the one who endorsed the washing-up bowls they gave us, one per family, when we stopped at

steps of the Me-to-We communal bath-tent (aye, it were just like the Falklands war, real community spirit). Most uncomfutable, this 'e'd flannel-dickin' fight I'd had for years). It were right grand, too, just lying there soaking up the rusty brown liquid — very like the stuff we used to get out of the taps in Bradford — and listening to the bairns' happy squeals in their minitubs. The Yorkshire Light Infantry boys fetched us to the buses in alphabetical order, by street; and by heck, Grandd got a lot of stick for choosing our back-to-back in Zeppelin Place all those years ago. You should have heard the jeers as Aardvark Garth went poncing by. The real toils set an example though. I have to say, Wi had the chief overlooker of

Gummer Lanolins (Smooth as a Babby's Cheek) on our bus, and Jessie Overend from Necropolis Road actually sang: "The Lord Mayor. It was very messy on her coach, by all accounts. We were each allowed to take six precious objects, and her Albert insisted on his best half-dozen pigeons. He wouldn't even let Jessie bring her parkin spoon. We've been lucky, mind, compared with the Shipley folk. There wasn't room for them in East Riding and all the ones from Baildon Green ended up down south in somewhere called Woking. I've got a letter here from my sister-Hannah who was billeted there and had a lot of trouble getting herself understood. Here, look at this: "We keep asking for tea, and they just give us cups of something they call

Earl Grey — we think it's a kind of hot Dandelion and Burdock. They have their dinner at supper-time and, most uncomfutable, this water keeps falling from the sky. They call it Rhine." You know, I often wonder what's happened to Bradford, laddie. I don't suppose there's much of it left. They arrested loads of looters in the early days, and set them on to working with the leak-mending gangs — a life sentence, if ever there was one. Not that it mattered to us, seeing as how we sold our house early on (site value only, but Mr Newton said we'd got a bargain) to the Great Yorkshire Water Dam-Building Appeal. What? You say you were up at Scarborough last week. It hasn't filled yet? No, I don't suppose it has. I don't suppose it ever will.

# In praise of spooks and eunuchs



David McKie

ONE HESITATES to lavish praise on the House of Lords when it spends so much time praising itself, but it has to be said that in recent weeks it has spectacularly out-performed the Commons. Within three weeks we've had the Government's defeat, at the hands of Lady Hollis and allies, the pension rights of divorced women; the House's endorsement of the public's right to watch great sporting occasions without subscribing to Sky; three cracking debates on the state of the NHS, the crisis in higher education, and the security services; and the routing of the Government's schemes for privatising Civil Service recruitment. None of this is to justify the present composition of the Lords, but something pleasingly awesome in the feebleness of the arguments recently marshalled in favour of preserving hereditary peers, especially that defence which claims that the Lords much more than the Commons represent a random cross-section of people, the young as well as the old. Try squaring that with the CVs of the hereditaries, which betray for instance levels of attendance at Eton, and time spent hunting and shooting, difficult to reconcile with the life of the average Briton. It also overlooks the fact that half of the people of Britain are women. The hereditary principle as at present applied to second class citizens, who are helping the US to win the Gulf, re-established some pride. English is barnstorming its way to becoming the world language.

In the world of Coke and Hollywood, is there any room for a distinctive Britain as opposed to American culture? Aren't we now just a tourist attraction in the world market, a home for Beefeaters, the Tower of London and Hampton Court? Aren't we fast approaching the time when in the world theme park the ages and times will blur, as Beatles music, Churchill, Shakespeare and the two princes of the Tower all come to reside in that dead world of the past? I do not think so. There is still a lively cultural heart ticking away in the UK. I see it in the new beauty of our modern brick buildings, now we have thrown off the mechanical ugliness of Le Corbusier and the French concrete tradition. We have absorbed fast food, westerns and jeans like everywhere else, but we have added our own distinctive British humour. Where once British engineers built bridges and railways for an empire and abroad, today British software designers make CDs and discs for the world's Internet. Blur's mordant criticism of modern follies in sleazy language is part of our times. Mr Robinson, the quango king, is a dirty dealer with an expensive car. Even I can work out that this group is not too enamoured of the Conservative cause. I am not sure they would be too happy with Tony Blair either. I apologise to the Lightning Seeds for taking the debate on the NHS, which have only one message — believe that all publicity is good publicity. Smile: you're in the world market. I'm off to listen to Handel's water music. Now there is real English jollification for you that will last and last.

selection pure and simple have two difficulties. The first is the clash which is bound to take place between any two chambers each of which has an equal claim to a democratic mandate. The other is the loss which could well occur once the Crohams and Daintons have lost their platform, and are forced to make do with Today and Newswatch. That was why years ago the Guardian proposed a two-tier Lords of a different kind: two-thirds directly elected, but with one-third seats remaining for non-voting peers, to make the contribution which the best of the life peers do now. Getting rid of the hereditary is the easy, and easily justified, part of the exercise. Conceiving a second chamber which does the work that a second chamber ought to be there for is a rather more taxing enterprise.

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# Finance Guardian

## NatWest on verge of deal

### Bank set to buy Clerical Medical

Patrick Donovan

**N**ATWEST is poised to announce that it is taking over Clerical Medical in a £800 million deal which will give it control of Britain's sixth-largest mutual life assurance group.

It emerged last night that final negotiations are close to completion, with a formal announcement expected by next

Tuesday. The deal will result in bonus payments to more than one million Clerical policyholders.

And it offers NatWest, which already has a 7.5 per cent stake in Clerical Medical through its NatWest Life subsidiary, the chance to become a major player in the life assurance market.

This will be NatWest's second major acquisition in the past two months. The bank has recently announced

a \$472 million takeover of the fund management group, Gartmore. The huge expansion programme is being funded by the £2.3 billion which NatWest raised recently through the sale of Bancorp, the US-based retail banking chain.

Both NatWest and Clerical Medical, which has £13 billion worth of funds under management, yesterday declined to comment. NatWest confirmed that it was interested in "enhancing our presence in the long-term savings market."

But a spokesman said the bank never responded to takeover speculation. Well-placed sources, however, confirmed that the takeover was going ahead.

Announcement of the deal

comes after weeks of tortuous negotiations with Schroders, the merchant bank which was drafted in to mastermind the Clerical sale. NatWest has beaten off competition from at least eight other financial companies. Other bidders are understood to have included Prudential and Abbey National.

Clerical had privately acknowledged that it lacked the critical mass to prosper in the rapidly consolidating financial services industry and needed to look for a partner. Its reputation has also been damaged by badly managed expansion attempts, particularly in overseas markets. Clerical had previously attempted to merge with National Provident and had

held abortive preliminary talks with US-based GE Capital.

Independent financial advisors, who feed in much of its business, have been pushing Clerical to complete the deal quickly as they fear that continued uncertainty could unsettle the market. The deal is likely to be the first in a round of takeovers throughout the insurance and pension industries, which are regarded by analysts as long overdue for restructuring.

The Clerical takeover terms are likely to ensure safeguards for the bid target's employees within the enlarged operation. Insiders suggest that Clerical could be allowed to take over the running of NatWest Life within the

NatWest Group. They point to the way that Gartmore is being allowed to control the running of NatWest's fund management operation after takeover.

But analysts warn that some job losses will be inevitable as there is bound to be a degree of administrative overlap between the two companies. "You never do this kind of deal without having to shed some jobs and get rid of costs," one analyst said.

He added that the merger could be achieved "relatively painlessly" as both companies know each other well and there "is unlikely to be the kind of culture clash you see so often in merger situations between two financial houses".

### Notebook

## Burying the tax and spend myth



Edited by Alex Brummer

**A**MONG the most notable achievements of the Clinton Administration has been the inroads it has made in slashing the US budget deficit.

When Bill Clinton took office in early 1993 the deficit was close to a historical peak of \$300 billion: the budget sent to Congress yesterday projects a deficit of \$145.6 billion in the current fiscal year (ending in October), which would become a surplus of \$44 billion by the year 2002.

The forecast deficit for the current year would amount to around 2 per cent of gross domestic product, which would mean that on this measure the US — so often the butt of criticism from Germany — would meet the Maastricht criteria.

Indeed, despite the image of Democrats as big spenders while in government, this year and next the federal and state governments will spend around 33 per cent of GDP, which makes it the lowest spending economy in the G7 with the exception of Japan — this despite the US's extraordinary defence obligations.

Of course the improvement in the US public finances is partly cyclical, with the recovery boosting tax revenues which in turn brings down the deficit. The objective of the White House in calendar year 1996, with an election looming, is to keep growth moving. The budget forecasts suggest output will increase by 2.3 per cent this year, helped by restrained long-term interest rates and a possible further quarter point cut in the federal funds rate.

Despite relatively high employment levels, inflation remains subdued, so there is no real reason to believe that the recent shift upwards in bond yields (following the February jobless numbers) should be anything but temporary.

The November 1996 election will now almost certainly be a contest between two moderates, Clinton and Dole. Senator Dole, by nature a fiscal compromiser, is already talking about budget accommodation with the White House this year, rather than more of the open warfare that has delayed the presentation of this year's budget by six weeks. If that can be achieved, then it should be a force for stability in the financial markets.

investment market have made it more difficult for the mutuals to generate the income necessary to generate the capital to move aggressively into new products. Clerical is in this income trap as is the Norwich Union, which is considering a stock market flotation.

In these circumstances NatWest looks a natural buyer. It has a great deal of cash, following its remarkably successful exit from NatWest Bancorp and has a direct tie-up with Clerical Medical which is a partner in NatWest Life in Bristol, in which the Clerical holds a 7.5 per cent stake. NatWest already has signalled its interest in the asset management business through its Gartmore purchase.

Unlike some recent fashions in banking — like lending to Latin America — expansion into bancassurance does not seem high risk. It is clear that to be a survivor in the life/fund management sector will require new forms of distribution. This is something which banks, with their branch networks have in abundance, and may soon be able to underpin with direct selling.

The issue for NatWest, if it goes ahead, will be one of branding. Gartmore already is perceived as a premium brand that will improve NatWest's position in, for instance, the PEE's unit trust areas. Clerical Medical too is regarded as an excellent brand, which over the years has built a strong reputation for the performance of its funds. Buying Clerical is a good idea, swamping it with the NatWest brand would be an error.

**Spanish practices**

**L**ONG-SUFFERING investors in the First Spanish Investment Trust have just a week to decide on its proposed reorganisation.

As regular readers will recall, First Spanish, a dismally-performing fund set up to invest in Spanish equities in 1987, wants to turn itself into something called the Australian Opportunities Investment Trust.

Conveniently, management will be taken over by the fund's largest shareholder, Duncan Saville, who just happens to have a spare portfolio of Australian shares and is happy to swap it for the trust's valuable Spanish assets.

Small investors would be well advised to take the cash alternative now on offer. However, no cash alternative is being offered for the fund's warrants, which means that even the most reluctant shareholder faces being lumbered with at least retaining some exposure to this wretched fund.

More seriously, the whole reorganisation looks far too cosy, with Warburgs — currently advising another fund to get out of Aussie funds — getting a 0.2 per cent cut on whatever investors decide.

The proposal shrouds the fund's warrants, which means that even the most reluctant shareholder faces being lumbered with at least retaining some exposure to this wretched fund.

## Michael Jackson ties knot with prince

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

**I**N THE name of God, an Arabian prince and the World's Most Famous Man yesterday entered into communion "to defend family values and cultural diversity" and to denounce "immorality and immorality".

Agnostics called it a company launch which would spawn theme parks, hotels, character licensing and films.

But when Michael Jackson and Prince Alwaleed of Saudi Arabia tied the knot at a press conference in Paris yesterday, there was no talk of such earthly matters as assets, job creation or where the head office would be located. Even the disciples did not know.

"Kingdom Entertainment," said Mr Jackson with the tiny voice of a divorce survivor but none of the authority of a sometime Chris-Tiger, "represents a long-awaited dream come true."

Wearing a bright-red Sergeant Pepper-style jacket — he owns the Beatles' back catalogue — Mr Jackson raised the pre-printed statement: "During continuous concert tours, I was made privy to the heartbeats of millions of fans who willingly shared with me their hopes, loves, fears and most importantly,



Family values... Michael Jackson and King Fahd's nephew, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, arrive at a press conference in Paris yesterday to announce a joint venture, Kingdom Entertainment, promoting theme parks, hotels, character licensing and films

their desire for a better life."

This had led Mr Jackson not on to the Mount but into contact with 39-year-old Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal who has financial holdings worth around \$10 billion.

Mr Jackson met the prince 18 months ago and "because of Kingdom

Entertainment and my partner, Prince Alwaleed, 'you are not alone,'" the 37-year-old pop star told "all those millions who have encouraged me to get involved with global entertainment based on family values".

The World's Most Famous Man — as Mr Jackson is described in the press

handout — handed over to one of its wealthiest.

"In the name of God, I begin," said the prince, raising immediate questions over whether the family values would be monogamous or bigamous.

"Because I am deeply devoted to family values, I chose family entertainment as the focus of my interests

in the global multimedia industry," said the nephew of King Fahd.

Moments later, Mr Jackson and Prince Alwaleed signed the Acts of Creation for their Kingdom, and left the crowded room at the Porte Maillot conference centre.

A disciple, Dr Khalid A. Al-Mansour, remained but

was unable to provide details of the marriage contract between Mr Jackson and Prince Alwaleed, who owns 24 per cent of Euro Disney and has bailed out Canary Wharf.

Quite where the battered of the world would come in was equally unclear.

## Refuelling ban may hit nuclear sale receipts

Simon Beavis Industrial Editor

**T**HE suspension of on-load refuelling at two of the country's most modern nuclear reactors could mean that more than half the £2.4 billion the Government hopes to raise from this summer's privatisation of the industry, according to a leading independent expert.

The morning followed the Guardian's disclosure yesterday that the practice of refuelling while stations were generating power had been stopped at two stations following an incident at Heysham 2 in Lancashire.

A full investigation is under way into the incident — caused when a fuel rod jammed in a distorted refuelling channel — amid fears of design faults in advanced gas cooled reactors (AGRs).

Gordon McKerron, an independent adviser on nuclear power to the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee, said any threat to on-load refuelling could "fundamentally affect the value" of the sale. It was a main way of boosting output and only two of the seven AGRs were now cleared to carry out the practice.

Mr McKerron said the Government's merchant banking advisers, BZW, were assuming an average output from

the AGRs of 82.5 per cent — far higher than achieved by any of them.

The bank was claiming that every percentage gained in output was equal to £140 million on the value of the industry. But, he said, reduced production would depress receipts by the same amount.

Mr McKerron added: "If output were assumed to be a more realistic 70 per cent, that would reduce the value of the sale to below £1 billion. If it were to fall to 65 per cent the industry would approach a zero valuation."

Captain Richard Killick, recently retired director of safety for Scottish Nuclear, said of the suspension of the practice at Heysham 2 and at Torness, Scotland: "This certainly has commercial implications as this is one of the more important measures to improve the economics of nuclear power."

Labour's energy spokesman, John Battle, called for the sale to be suspended until the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate had accepted Nuclear Electric's report into the Heysham incident.

John Major was forced to defend the sell-off in the Commons saying it posed no threat to safety. The Department of Trade and Industry said: "There is no reason to believe the incident has implications for output which would affect privatisation"

## Lucas rejig 'on course' as profits rise

Pauline Springett

**L**UCAS, the motor components group, yesterday unveiled a 38 per cent rise in pre-tax profits at £61.6 million for the half year to the end of January and insisted its restructuring programme would not be derailed by the impending exit of chief executive George Simpson.

On Monday, it was confirmed Mr Simpson was to succeed Lord Weinstock at the helm of GEC, Britain's biggest defence and engineering contractor.

Lucas's chairman Sir Brian Pearse conceded he hoped to

have appointed a successor by the autumn. The trowl for a new chief executive had already begun. "We are going to get on with the job. People like George, I regret to say, do not grow on trees." There are rumours that the company's finance director John Grant may step into Mr Simpson's shoes.

Sir Brian indicated that Lucas might seek compensation from GEC over Mr Simpson's departure. "I certainly think we deserve a transfer fee, especially when you think Rangers paid £4 million for Gazza and he's not even an accountant."

Mr Simpson's early departure has already attracted

criticism from City analysts who argue his task is incomplete. But he and Sir Brian stressed that Lucas was now in better financial shape than a few years ago. Far from being a takeover target itself, they insisted that the company was looking for bolt-on acquisitions. Mr Simpson said that he expected to nail at least one of these before he left.

The outgoing chief executive said that Lucas aimed to become one of the world's largest 10 car components manufacturers. To do so it would have to increase its annual sales from around \$4 billion a year to \$10 billion. "To achieve critical mass in

the automotive market, the group will have to make an acquisition."

Mr Simpson dismissed a purchase of the 28 per cent in French car components group Valeo which is being sold by Italian industrialist Carlo de Benedetti because it would give Lucas a controlling stake. However, he said the company's two joint ventures with Siemens were working well.

Despite a weaker than expected demand in its main car parts market, the company's sales in the half-year grew by 9 per cent to £1,469 billion. The underlying increase, taking account of acquisitions, closures and exchange-rate variations was 5 per cent.

## Marriage made in Moscow heaven ends in frustrated tears

Dan Atkinson

**A**S THE rest of British industry grapples with stakeholder capitalism, one Yorkshire spinning and weaving group is way ahead of the game, courtesy of the peculiar business practices of Russia.

Two years ago, Illingworth Morris bought 49 per cent of Moscow suit-manufacturer AO Bolshevichka, but has been frustrated ever since by the holder of 4 per cent of the shares.

Vladimir Gurov has, according to the Bradford group, stood firm against Illingworth's intention to invest up to \$5.5 million in Bolshevichka. In the finest traditions of Marxism-Le-

niaism and the social market, the company's general director has forced the wool-merchants to keep their money to themselves.

Yesterday, Illingworth's patience snapped; it announced legal action against Bolshevichka and Mr Gurov who, it claims, "has frustrated and delayed... \$5.5 million investment in Bolshevichka [and] delayed acquisition of modern plant and equipment".

Furthermore, Mr Gurov allegedly refused to convene a shareholders' meeting to elect Illingworth representatives to the board.

The trouble seems to have begun in 1994, when Illingworth bought 49 per cent of the formerly state-

owned producer of 250,000 suits a year. It should have been a marriage made in heaven, especially as Illingworth's chairman, Alan Lewis, is co-chairman with Moscow's mayor of a UK-Russia trade commission, and also "has been creating, revitalising and growing companies since he was 20 years old".

In Bolshevichka, it seems, he encountered a company that just didn't want to be revitalised.

Mr Lewis hit out yesterday at "entrenched managing directors who believe they are above Russian law and unaccountable to shareholders". However, the action will be heard in the Swedish, rather than Moscow, courts. Mr Lewis made sure the contract was legally valid, not in the "wild east", but in boring old Stockholm.

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## £563,000 bonus for top ICI duo

Patrick Donovan City Editor

**T**HE two top ICI directors who oversaw the hiving off of the group's pharmaceutical operations through the Zeneca demerger nearly three years ago have picked up a combined £583,000 bonus.

The payment to Sir Denys Henderson and Sir Ronald Hampel, which was disclosed with yesterday's publication of the company's annual report, is the maximum payable under the terms of the Zeneca listing document.

Sir Ronald, who has taken over as chairman after Sir Denys' retirement, picks up the biggest share with a £425,000 bonus payout. Added to a

smaller £57,000 annual bonus, this saw his overall remuneration soar from £607,000 to £883,000.

Sir Denys, who quit the company in April, picked up an overall £288,000 for his four months' work which includes his £138,000 share of the Zeneca performance bonus.

The annual report predicts that global sales will continue to increase over the current year, with biggest growth in Asia particularly strong.

"Elsewhere, growth is forecast to be stronger in the second half of 1996 than in the first. Chemical prices, some of which have already fallen considerably from their peaks, are likely, on average, to show only small rises in 1996."

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# Clinton dangles \$100bn tax carrot

Mark Tran in Washington

President Clinton yesterday dangled \$100 billion (\$38.2 billion) in proposed tax cuts as part of his \$1.64 trillion 1997 budget designed to help win his second term in November's election.

The tax cuts over five years would benefit tens of millions of middle-income Americans and small businesses but they are half those proposed by congressional Republicans in the impasse that has blocked agreement on a budget for fiscal year 1996, which has only six more months to run.

With an ABC News poll showing Robert Dole, likely Republican nominee, cutting the President's lead to 9 per cent last week, Mr Clinton used the budget documents to attack Republican tax cut proposals.

"The President believes those cuts are too deep and would threaten the government's vital role in guaranteeing health care to vulnerable Americans and investing in the future," he declared.

The inability of the White House and congressional Republicans to agree on a 1996 budget because of the gap on taxes and cuts in Medicare (medical insurance for the elderly) and Medicaid (medical insurance for the poor) makes Mr Clinton's 1997 proposal largely an academic exercise.

While a President's budget proposal is usually declared dead on arrival on Capitol Hill, yesterday's 2,196 page document was already pronounced in *rigor mortis*.

Mr Clinton's budget, how-

**To promote a strong economy with sustained growth and low interest rates, the budget reaches balance in seven years by cutting unnecessary and lower priority spending'**

— from 2,196-page Budget statement

ever, projects shrinking budget deficits from \$145.6 billion (\$56 billion) in the current fiscal year to a small surplus of \$44 billion by 2002.

In general, the budget reflects the concessions Mr Clinton made to Republicans two months ago — chiefly his agreement to balance the budget by 2002, but makes no new ones.

Projected domestic and defence programmes would be cut by \$297 billion over seven years, growth in Medicare by \$124 billion, Medicaid by \$54 billion and welfare by \$40 billion.

Since his election in 1992, Mr Clinton has steadily

tamed the deficit, virtually halving it from \$290 billion. In 1995, the deficit of \$164 billion constituted 2.3 per cent of gross domestic product, less than half the level in 1992.

But the present deficit is continuing to increase the already massive amount of federal debt — \$4,921 billion at the end of 1995. This year, the government is estimated to have to pay about \$247 billion of interest on its debt while total net government borrowing in the credit markets came to \$177 billion in 1995.

If its budget proposals are adopted, the administration said the US would see a continuation of healthy economic trends since 1992.

"Deficit restraint moderates inflationary pressures by restraining demand. It enables the Federal Reserve to continue its policy of easing short-term interest rates." It noted that, except for a few months in 1993, the last time long-term interest rates were that low was in the 1920s.

"The drop in rates last year is expected to set the stage for a pick-up in economic activity in 1996."

Judging by the futures market, it continued, the financial community anticipates a further reduction of one quarter of a percentage point by this summer.

On economic growth, the administration projects modest annual growth during 1997-2002 of 2.3 per cent on average, about half a point a year less than the administration achieved over the last three years. The White House expects real GDP to increase by 2.2 per cent in 1996, in line with Wall Street estimates.

But in yesterday's budget documents, the administration congratulated itself for sustainable growth and a "soft landing" after six years of economic expansion.

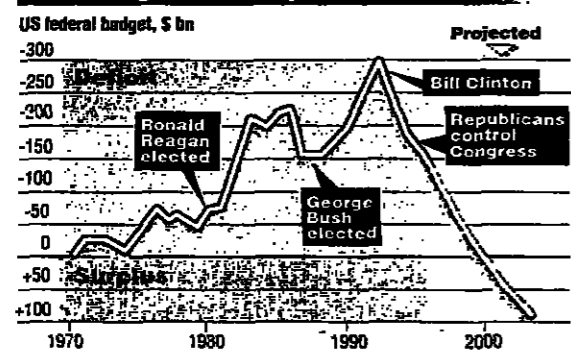
"The soft landing of 1995 is the culmination of three years of very successful macroeconomic policy," the administration asserted. "Over this period, jobs have increased and unemployment has fallen, while at the same time, inflation has been low and relatively stable."

On the jobs front, the administration expects unemployment to average 5.7 per cent this year and hold at that level to the end of 2002.



The way ahead... President Clinton admonishes a heckler during his address dedicating the \$115 million hi-tech terminal extension to the Nashville Street wharf in New Orleans

### Heading for a surplus



## Congress asked to increase funds for World Bank

President Bill Clinton yesterday courted the wrath of Republicans by asking Congress to boost funding for the World Bank and the regional development banks to \$1.4 billion — a 24 per cent increase over the deadlocked 1996 budget, writes Mark Tran in Washington.

Congress cut the President's request for multilateral development banks by 50 per cent in 1996.

In another flashpoint with Congress, the adminis-

tration is requesting full funding for the United Nations, related agencies and peace-keeping. US arrears have now grown to roughly \$1 billion, forcing the UN to the brink of bankruptcy.

The total request for international affairs comes to \$19.2 billion. It includes money for the Middle East peace process and \$200 million towards economic reconstruction in Bosnia. For defence, the administration has requested \$243.4

billion for 1997, down from \$257.4 billion this year. For 1996, Congress provided \$7 billion more than the administration requested, mainly for weapons the Pentagon said it did not need or planned to request later.

Representatives of more than 30 donor countries endorsed a package allowing lending of \$2 billion dollars to the world's poorest countries over the next three years, the World Bank said.

## Recovery ahoj as Tokyo spurt baffles critics

Kevin Rafferty in Tokyo

JAPAN'S economy surprised the pundits yesterday when the government announced that growth jumped to an annual rate of 3.6 per cent in the final three months of last year.

It confirmed that official printing had taken effect and consumer spending began to grow. The spurt took growth for the year to 0.9 per cent, much higher than expected. "The stage is set for a recovery led by private investment and spending," said Makoto Kobayashi, chief official at the Economic Planning Agency.

"These are strong figures and outside the range of expecta-

tions," added Brian Pearce, chief economist at SBC Warburg. "At the end of last year, it looks as though there was more strength in the economy than we thought."

Despite optimistic government forecasts, until now the economy had refused to respond. With unemployment at a record 3.4 per cent — and probably double that if measures by western standards — there were fears that consumers' reluctance to spend would keep the economy bumping along the bottom for a fourth year.

Growth in 1994 was only 0.5 per cent in spite of government packages to pump billions of pounds into the economy. The previous year, growth was only 0.1 per cent.

The good news helped the Tokyo stock market to gain 157 points yesterday, taking the Nikkei index to a rise of 707 points in four days or more than 3.5 per cent. The yen also retreated slightly against the dollar, good news for exporters.

Critics cautioned that although the chances of a sustained recovery appear better than at any time since 1981, the way ahead could be bumpy.

The recent Bank of Japan "tankan" survey showed that industrialists are still worried about the shadow of recession. The central bank's discount rate is at a record low 0.5 per cent, but any rise in interest rates or in the value of the yen could quickly unsettle the economy.

# Bayer big wheel keeps on turning

OUTLOOK/ Mark Milner reports from Leverkusen on the chemicals group wondering what to do about drugs

AT NIGHT, the skyline here is dominated by a giant wheel of light. Within it, forming horizontal and vertical spokes, and crossing on the 1 is the word Bayer — the name of the chemical giant which is synonymous with the city. Even the football team carries the Bayer name.

But while Bayer, one of Germany's big three chemical combines, is accustomed to being a powerful force in that industry, it now has to decide if it has the strategy to be a big wheel in the pharmaceutical business, too — a business which currently accounts for some DM6.6 billion (\$2.9 billion) of group sales.

After years of fragmentation when even the world's biggest player could barely manage a market share of 5 per cent, the drugs industry is now on the move. Glaxo's acquisition of Wellcome, the merger of Pharmacia and Upjohn and, more lately, of Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz, are changing the shape of the drugs industry. Industry watchers are agog to see the next move in the partnership dance.

Yesterday, however, Dr Manfred Schneider, chairman of Bayer's board of management, was in no mood to gratify either their wishes or those of the posse of investment bankers who, he said, were beating a path to Bayer's door, all too eager to point the company down the mergers and acquisitions trail.

Dr Schneider acknowledged that such alliances could be driven by factors like the need to address a perceived weakness vis-à-vis the market leader in certain fields, to increase market share or to fill gaps in the new drugs development pipeline, or where synergies would allow cost cutting.

Big might be beautiful. Buying innovation was even nicer, Dr Schneider points to Astra and Zeneca as examples of innovative pharmaceutical companies but noted that both carried stock market ratings that would never offer a payback — "at the necessary levels".

Nor did he appear to think

that either company needed a suitor. "I think they are so strong they will be able to do it alone," he added.

The Bayer chairman also argued that too much attention was being paid to the pharmaceuticals business. The company was making money from its chemical businesses, though it would like to improve its return on sales, and had no intention of separating the two parts of the group. "We are not considering divesting pharmaceuticals."

Though Bayer insists that it has its own strategy and the financial muscle to carry it out, it is unlikely to be able to shake off questions about a strategic move in the drugs industry — at least until it either makes one or the current flurry of activity in the sector dies down.

But Dr Schneider and his colleagues are unlikely to be too worried. Despite the problems of the strong market and the costs of employing people in Germany — the company was scarcely at pains to underplay either factor yesterday — the 1995 results were still a record, beating the previous best set back in 1989. Though sales were up just 3 per cent at DM54.6 billion, pre-tax profits rose 27 per cent to DM4.185 billion.

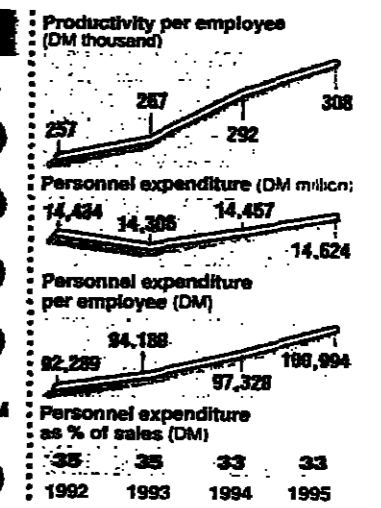
But, according to Dr Schneider, while the group "valued" Germany as a location for manufacturing chemicals, "we must stop costs rising any further and actually start to reduce them", otherwise jobs would continue to have to go. And Bayer, which cut its German workforce by 3,300 last year, is expecting to shed 500 in 1996.

Dr Schneider says Bayer is prepared to look at the ways of at least safeguarding existing jobs, but the 6 per cent pay claim tabled by the union, IG Chemie, means there is some hard bargaining to be done.

Still, Dr Schneider can console himself that Bayer's performance so far in 1996 has it on course for another record set of results, up 10 per cent, while the board is confident enough to recommend a DM12 increase in the dividend to DM15 per share.

### Bayer group

Increase/decrease, %	Value
Sales (at DM million)	44,580
Pre-tax profit	4,185
Net profit	2,241
Cash-flow	5,424
Dividend	15DM
Total dividend payment	1,056



### News in brief

## Takeover gives Durex group lead in Spain

LONDON International has become Spain's leading condom manufacturer, after paying \$8.7 million yesterday for one of that country's biggest-selling condom ranges, Androtex. LIC, which already controls a third of the total Spanish condom market with the Durex range, said the deal would give it a leading position in the Spanish market.

Androtex, whose other brands include Feeling, Newphycream and Anandrophim, is Spain's biggest seller in the mass market, which covers grocery and convenience stores and supermarkets. The acquisition is subject to clearance from Spain's anti-trust authorities, which is expected to be received by the end of this month. — Ian King

## Drugs firm plans float

SEVEN of the world's leading medical researchers, including Nobel prizewinner Professor Sir John Vane, yesterday announced plans to float off their Vanguard Medical drugs firm with an estimated \$80 million share placing. The five-old firm specialises in the development and marketing of pharmaceutical products discovered by other companies.

Chairman Dr Roger Brimblecombe says this strategy offers huge potential because many big companies are rationalising their research and development operations. This means that the industry is increasingly looking to license out products to firms like Vanguard Medical. — Patrick Donovan

## Names' court victory

IAN Lang, Trade and Industry Secretary, is one of more than 1,000 loss-making Names of Lloyd's of London who yesterday celebrated a High Court ruling which said their losses had been caused by negligent underwriting. The 1,082 Names could receive up to 70 per cent of the \$450 million they lost by investing in a syndicate run by the Rose Thomson Young agency in 1988 and 1989. The Rose Thomson Young Names are the latest of several action groups to win damages in the courts over negligent underwriting.

Their victory will add to the pressure on Lloyd's to produce an acceptable settlement for its Names. — Pauline Springett

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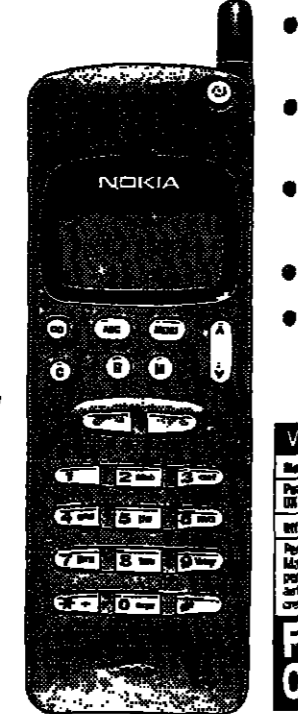
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## What you need is what you get — and it pays

WORKFACE/ Using alternative salary systems could mean the 'abolition of wagers'. Velida Starcevic reports

IF AN employee at Emerson College in Sussex wants to buy a new car, simply saying "I need it" could secure a salary increase to pay the bill. Wages and salaries at this private adult education centre reflect employees' needs rather than their job. As a result, a director may be paid less than a cleaner, if the cleaner has more children or a bigger mortgage.

Emerson, catering for 400 students, has been operating a pay system based on need for more than 30 years. And dozens of schools, colleges and community centres adopt a similar policy.

"At the moment, the highest-paid person is someone with four children," says Charles Burkam, Emerson's financial director. The salaries of the 27 permanent staff range from £9,000 to £30,000. Each case is assessed on its merits.

Stephen Briault, a pay strategies consultant at Rubicon Associates, calls it the "abolition of wagers". Payment according to need was identified by Karl Marx more than a century ago as the historic goal of a classless communist society. But this analogy is disliked by need-based pay enthusiasts, who stress individualism.

Instead, Mr Briault attributes the growing interest in alternative pay systems to a recognition that performance-related pay is a failure. "Companies often forget that employees' motivation is not necessarily mainly economic or self-interested," he says.

"To motivate people to give the best — in other words, to act differently from the market philosophy of 'minimum input for maximum returns' — we must rely on other factors such as job content, sense of achievement, recognition, responsibility and development — all non-sellable."

Employers such as Emerson College, which is near East Grinstead, are concentrated in areas where locals went to schools inspired by Rudolf Steiner, an Austrian who advocated a holistic philosophy in the early years of the century. "Steiner's children," as his followers are called, regard work not as a marketable commodity, but a means of fulfilment which should also provide people with enough resources to live on.

In Michael Holl school, Sussex, 110 employees have a basic salary. On top of that, there is a need-based element, based on criteria agreed collectively once a year. At the more radical Camphill Villages Trust, which oversees

80 communities for the mentally handicapped throughout the world, pay has been abandoned altogether. "Everyone, from doctors to craftsmen, contributes a particular kind of work," says Ann Harris explains. "And individual needs are met from the total income of the community."

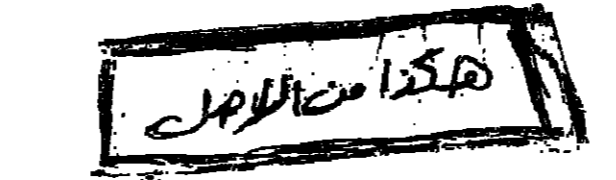
Need-based pay, stronger in Germany and Austria than in Britain, has spread beyond the education world. But supporters have inevitably come up against practical limitations. In the Bristol-based Triodos Bank, salaries reflect a combination of market rates, individual needs and comparabilities in the bank.

Pay rates for the 50 employees are fixed by two managing directors. One of them, Glen Saunders, says a purer need-based pay system was abandoned six years ago, after it became clear employees were trapped in their jobs.

"They could not leave because they could not find jobs that would bring equivalent money. Now nobody gets more than they can earn in other organisations," he says.

Angus Jenkinson, another business consultant advocating need-based pay systems, accepts it is too early to talk about expanding full need-pay systems.

"You have to develop in steps. To start with, I would bring some healthy qualities into the pay system of big companies, for example moving from commission pay to group bonuses."



Racing

Retirement rules Athlete out of Aintree

Ken Oakes

ROYAL ATHLETE last year's Martin Grand National winner and 25-1 to complete the double at Aintree on Saturday week, has been retired.

Jenny Pitman, the 13-year-old's trainer, said yesterday: "Due to the prolonged spell of frost and snow, and the fact that we are unable to train him on artificial surfaces, we feel that we would not be able to produce 'Athlete' in the condition that we would like."

"Royal Athlete has been a great ambassador, not only for his owners but for ourselves and he has been enjoyed over the years by a great number of National Hunt supporters.

Whilst it leaves us with a feeling of sadness to bring his racing career to an end, we know that this is the right decision as the welfare of our horses is always uppermost in our minds."

Mark Pitman, who was in his first full season as assistant to his mother when Royal Athlete sprang a 40-1 shock with his seven lengths defeat of Fairy Politics last year, is now being brought up by his agent, said: "It is all a bit up in the air at the moment. Sadly, Monsieur Le Cure is no longer with us, and now Royal Athlete is not running."

Titley added: "The chances of a mount are drying up. Son Of War would be a great ride to jump round, but Francis Woods will probably ride him, and Lo Stregone has a good chance but either Charlie (Swan) or Jamie Osborne will probably be on board."

"Mrs Pitman's Superior Finish would have to have a chance, but he will be ridden by Warren Marston. It's getting late in the day, but we will keep looking."

Swan was offered the ride on Lo Stregone, the 7-1 favourite, after winning the afternoon Grand National Trial on him at Haydock last month, but the Irish champion decided to keep faith in Aidan's O'Brien's Life Of A Lord.

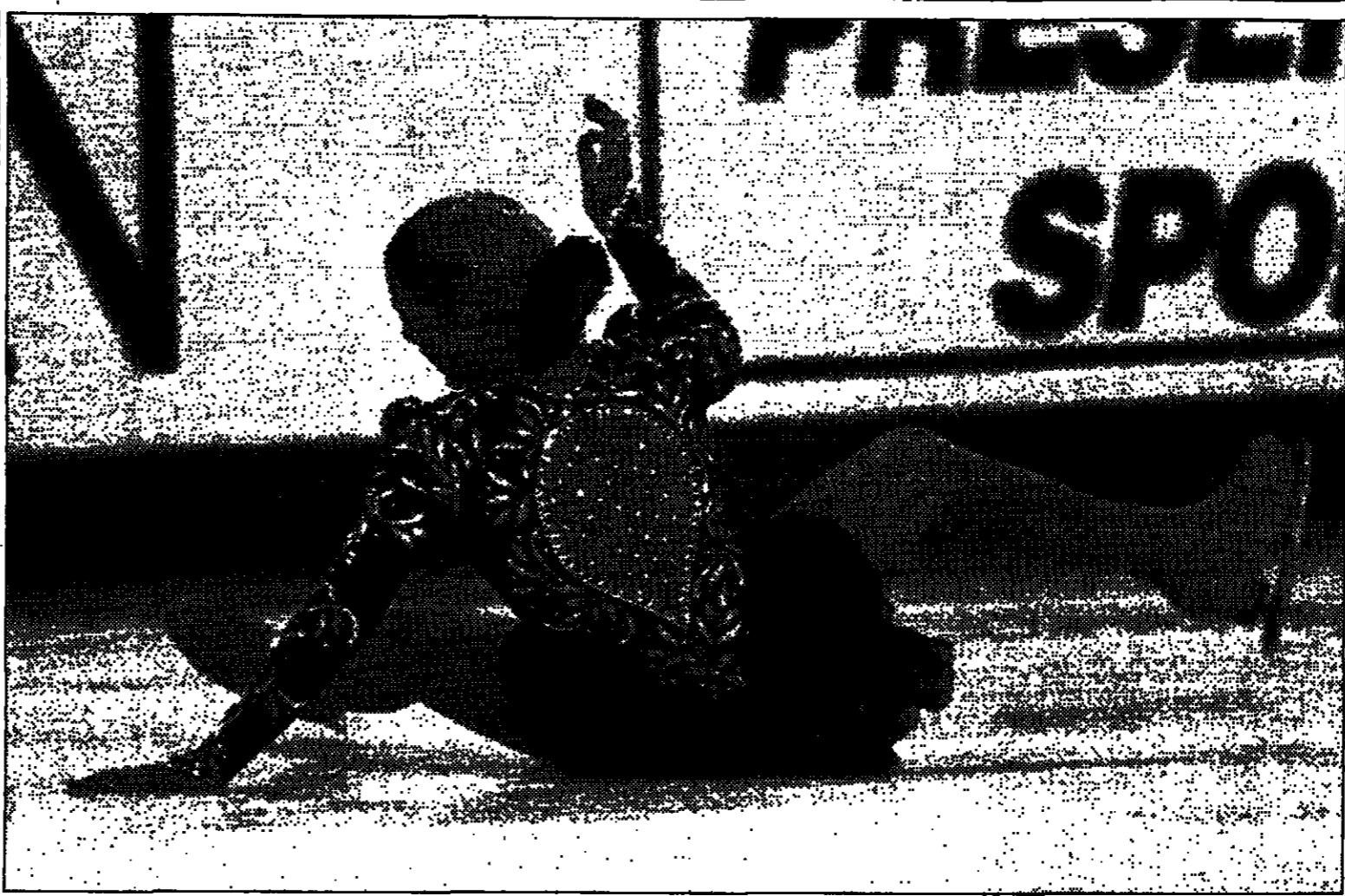
However, O'Brien has warned that Life Of A Lord will not run at Aintree if the going was soft.

Paul Nicholls, the Somerset trainer, will have three runners in the National Tony McCoy rides Deep Bramble, second favourite at 10-1, while Philip Hildes, Vicomte de Valmont and Guy Lewis is on Brackenfield.

Needle Gun, trained at Newmarket by Clive Brittain, arrived at Dubai International Airport on Monday afternoon with his sights set on the inaugural running of the \$4 million Dubai World Cup.

Jock Brown, the six-year-old's travelling lad, said: "He travelled like a dream and was weighed on arrival and he had not too much weight."

Cigar, America's champion racehorse and even money favourite for the Dubai race, pleased connections with a good canter on the Nad Al Sheba dirt track yesterday.



Over she goes... Stephanie Main takes a tumble on the Edmonton ice during her difficult qualifying competition

PHOTOGRAPH: DENIS PAULIN

Ice Skating

Main makes final stage

BRITAIN'S Stephanie Main has made progress the hard way at the world figure skating championships in Edmonton, Alberta, finishing 12th in her qualifying group to squeeze into the competition proper.

The top 10 finishers at last year's championships automatically earned places in the main competition but only six returned. Everyone else had to compete for the 24 qualifying places.

The 4ft 11in Japanese jumping sensation Midori Ito returned to international competition after an absence of four years and won her qualifying round. Tara Lipinski, a 13-year-old American, finished second in 10's group.

Two-time Lipinski's age, she quit after winning the silver medal at the 1982 Winter Olympics, saying she had "burned out".

Boxing

Maloney dismisses Lewis rematch for Bruno

Don Best

LENNOX LEWIS'S manager Frank Maloney yesterday ruled out a rematch with Bruno, the dethroned World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, and scooped: "Bruno has nowhere to go in the heavy-weight division."

Maloney, who has been reported to be considering Bruno, demoted in less than three rounds by Mike Tyson last weekend, as a future opponent for Lewis but Maloney said: "Unless the money is so good that Lennox could not refuse it I can't see him wanting a Bruno fight, knowing how it ended last time and seeing Frank's performance at the weekend."

Bruno, stopped by Lewis in the seventh round in Cardiff in 1993, still dreams of retiring in front of a home crowd as a winner rather than a loser. He claimed yesterday that the American promoter Don King had offered to set up yet another world title fight for him.

Bruno, meanwhile, has been offered a chance by Scott Welch to fight him for his British title. The Brighton-based Welch, who climbed Joe Bugner into painful retirement in Berlin on Saturday, said: "I am handing Frank a marvellous opportunity to say goodbye to his fans with a shot at my title. It will be his chance to bow out at home but not as a winner."

Tyson has been ordered by an American judge to give Lewis the next WBC challenge, and "Iron Mike" has talked of his desire to fight in Britain, "my second home".

Richie Woodhall's planned challenge for the WBC middleweight title has been thrown into confusion by Keith Holmes's defeat of his defending champion Quincy Taylor on the Bruno bill in Las Vegas.

Ludlow runners and riders

Table of racing results for Ludlow, including horse names, jockeys, and race details.

Exeter with form guide

Table of racing results for Exeter, including horse names, jockeys, and race details.

Towcester programme

Table of racing results for Towcester, including horse names, jockeys, and race details.

Results

Table of racing results for various tracks, including horse names, jockeys, and race details.

Over gives Dr...

Advertisement for Dr. [Name] featuring text and a small image of a horse.

Smart victory

Advertisement for a horse named Smart, featuring text and a small image of a horse.

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Advertisement for RACELINE featuring a table of race results and contact information.



Tennis

Players fail to halt drugs proceedings

John Duncan

MATS WILANDER and Karel Novacek failed yesterday in their High Court attempt to prevent the International Tennis Federation pursuing them for failing drugs tests at last year's French Open.

ited by the International Olympic Committee since 1986 and the accreditation was renewed in April 1995. In June and October 1995 both A and B samples of the players tested positive for cocaine — Wilander also tested positive for cannabis, which is not an ITF-prohibited substance — and the players were given the right to appeal against their mandatory three-month suspension.

Motor Racing

Arrows heading for a takeover

Alan Henry

TOM WALKINSHAW, the millionaire racing team chief who masterminded Jaguar's victories in the world endurance championship and at Le Mans in the late Eighties, was yesterday poised to take over the financially hard-pressed Milton Keynes-based Arrows Formula One team.

ffectively in control before the second round of the current world championship, the Brazilian Grand Prix at Sao Paulo's Interlagos circuit on Sunday week. The Arrows team, who have campaigned Footwork-Bart cars, were founded in 1978 after the former Lotus F1 driver Jackie Oliver, with his partners Alan Rees and Tony Southgate, walked out of the Shadow Formula One team to set up their own organisation.

Bowls

Auld enemies set to meet

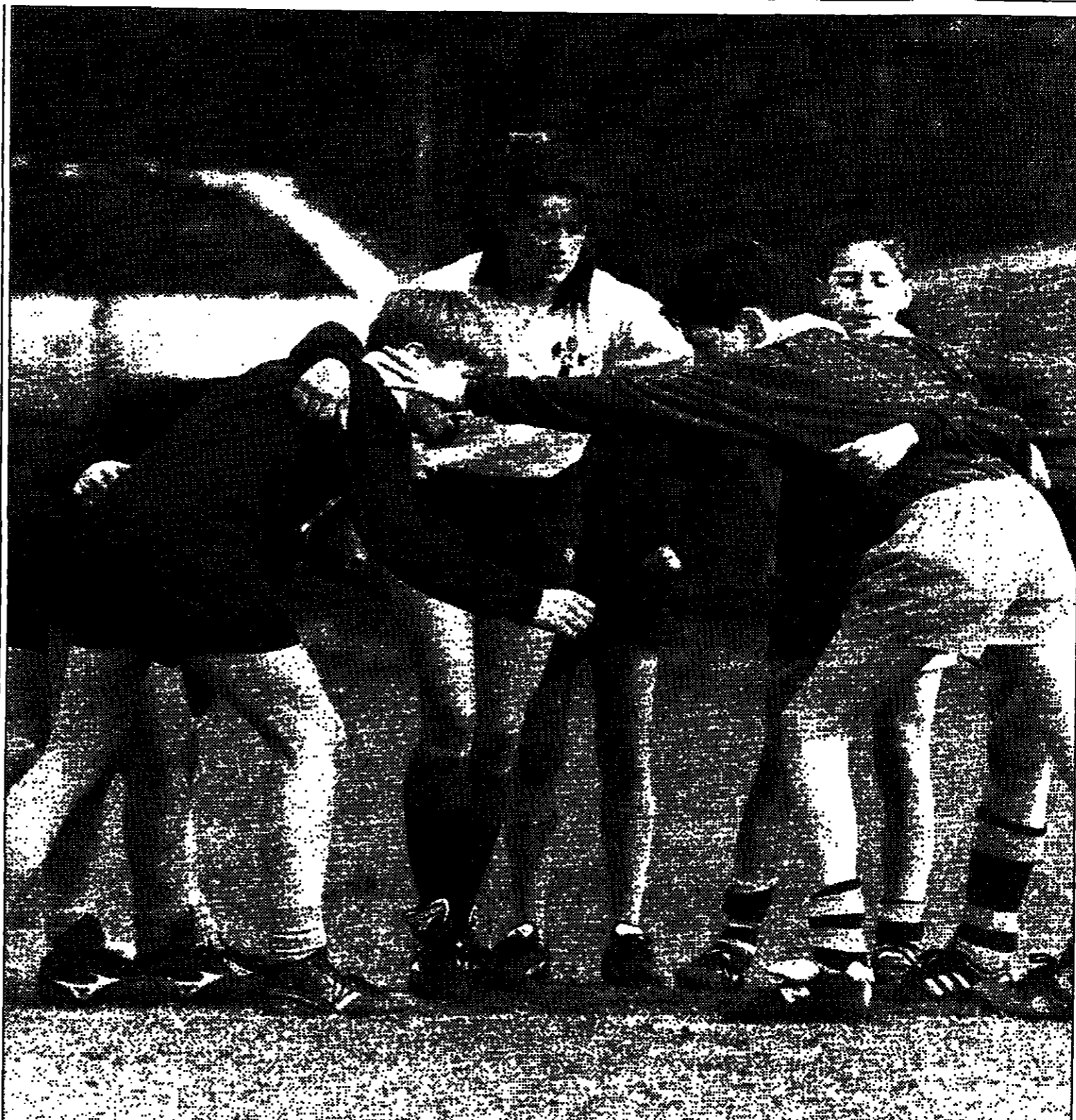
ENGLAND's experimental team of Andy Thomson and Tony Alcock are heading for a semifinal showdown in the pairs with Richard Corsie and Alex Marshall of Scotland and Alex Marshall of Scotland and Alex Marshall of Scotland in Adelaide.

Table Tennis

Chen red card earns warning

Richard Jago

CHEN XINHUA, the Yorkshire-based former World Cup winner, has been sent a strongly worded letter by the British Olympic Table Tennis Committee for removing the umpire's spectacles and banging them over a barrier, for persistent arguing and for being reluctant to leave the arena during the Olympic qualifying competition in Manchester in January.



Leading woman... Sarah Malfalieu, London Society's first female referee, finds players 'generally receptive' to her authority

Rugby Union

Sarah first in sevens heaven

THE Under-13 players of Latymer Upper School, Hammersmith, and St Gregory's, Bath, form a team under the watchful eye of Sarah Malfalieu in the National School Sevens, writes Ian Malin. Women referees, as well as women players, are no longer a rarity. But this is a first for a competition in which public schools and preparatory schools from across Britain converge on a corner of south-west London each spring.

Brittle tries to repair the rift

Ian Malin

CLIFF BRITTLE, controversially elected to replace the outgoing executive chairman of the Rugby Football Union, will meet representatives of League One and Two clubs tomorrow in an attempt to head off a breakaway by England's leading clubs.

Brittle added: "The RFU, too, is receptive to change. In recent years a successful England side has attracted millions to rugby. We are now in a position to compete globally and we need strong clubs in full support of that. We welcome the finance and business expertise that has come into the club game. It must, however, be used to improve our standard of play, our investment in youth and the quality of our stadia, not just for the payment of players. To achieve this we must ensure we stay together."

Battler Hill back at the Rec

Chris Hewett on the Gloucester coach plotting Bath's Pilkington Cup downfall

NINE semi-finals, nine victories. There is something about the atmosphere in the Bath dressing room on his Pilkington Cup occasions which generates a mood of such controlled ferocity, such hardened willpower, that opponents are defeated almost before they set foot on the pitch.

Richard Hill knows all about that "something". For exactly a decade he was renowned as the most bloody-minded competitor in a side built on ego and attitude. His old halfback partner Stuart Barnes once described him as "a natural-born fighter with the word 'victory' stamped across his eyeballs".

charge of their coaching operation he had little hesitation in agreeing a deal. His impact at Kingsholm has been such that no one, not even the super-confident Bath players, sees this weekend's cup semi-final as a foregone conclusion. "Of course I'm looking forward to going back. I haven't been to the ground since I left, not because of any animosity but because I've had no reason and even less opportunity," says Hill. "I'll be there on Saturday, though, large as life. It should be quite a day."



Hill... bloody-minded

Rugby League

Super League 'rebels' plan their own tournament

THE 311 players who have signed contracts with Rupert Murdoch's outlawed Australasian Super League are now threatening to run their own tournament, in competition with the Australian Rugby League.

Super League, Hunter Mariners and Adelaide Rams, both of whom have been left in limbo since the court ruling in favour of the ARL. The players demanded that these clubs be incorporated into the ARL's Optus Cup competition which starts on Friday. The governing body refused.

Griffiths leaves Warrington despite future uncertainty at South Wales

THE Wales coach Clive Griffiths left the assistant position at Warrington yesterday by mutual consent, making himself a front runner to take charge at the new Second Division club South Wales. But he may have jumped the gun.

"The ideal situation would have been to have Clive down here," said Nicholas. "But matters have gone on from there and we have considered the possibility of a player-coach. Clive's contract needs to be substantial but we are a Second Division club just starting life. He has also not been happy about the idea of relocation, and whether a commuting coach from Cheshire would work we are far from certain."

Ice Hockey

Fraud Squad called upon to investigate sale of Wasps

DOCUMENTS relating to the sale of the Durham Wasps to Newcastle United have been passed to the Fraud Squad. They were handed over by the MIP for Durham City, Gerry Steinberg.

They were very much at the early stage of inquiries that are principally concerned with evaluating documents lodged in support of that complaint, a spokesman said. "It might sound like we are splitting hairs, but at this stage we are not conducting what could be described as a formal investigation."

# SportsGuardian

## GERMANS GO NAP TO SHATTER LAST ENGLISH EURO-DREAM

Uefa Cup quarter-final, second leg: Nottingham Forest 1, Bayern Munich 5 (agg: 2-7)

# Sheer class flattens Forest

David Lacey

**N**OTTINGHAM Forest last night sought redemption in the style of Frank Clark but suffered retribution more in keeping with the honest shortcomings of Frank Bruno.

A mistake by Mark Crossley, whose goalkeeping heroics had spared them a heavier defeat in the first leg, enabled Ziege to turn Bayern Munich's overall lead on the half-hour. Strumz's deflected shot effectively put the tie beyond Forest's reach two minutes before the interval, and further goals from Klinsmann and Papin turned the proceedings into a rout. Forest's sole reward came in the 84th minute, when Stone exchanged passes with Lee and shot under Kahn.

Yet Bayern had not appeared to be in the ideal frame of mind for this tie. Three defeats in six games since the Bundesliga's winter break had produced dressing-room rumbles. Klinsmann was reportedly at odds with Matthäus, the players were at odds with the coach Otto Rehhagel, and Franz Beckenbauer, the Bayern president, had read the squad the riot act.

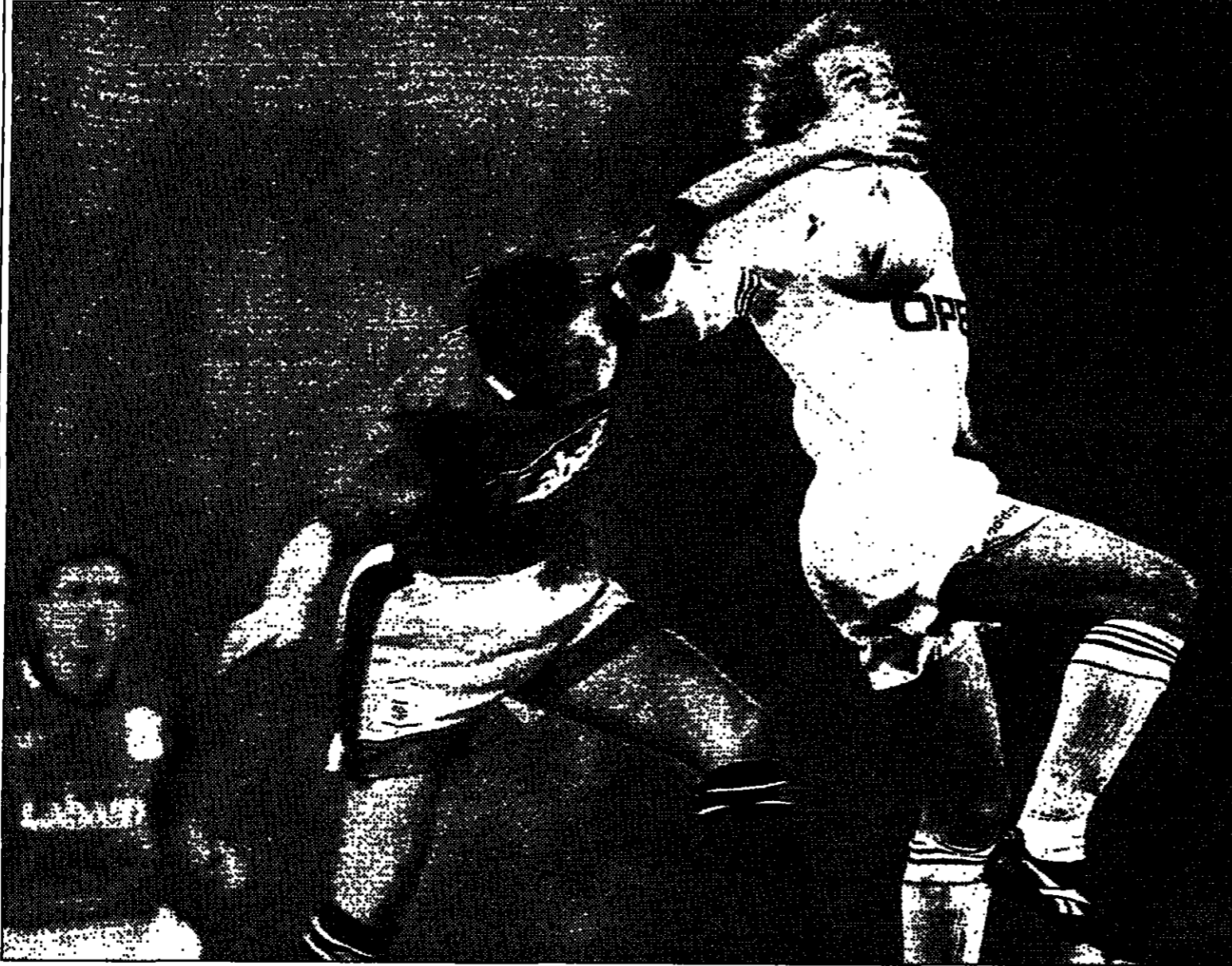
Such ructions, however, are not uncommon among German teams. Forest, if they were wise, would not have set much store by them.

Klinsmann, after all, was still Klinsmann, last night he was joined by Papin, and in the previous rounds Bayern had won 5-0 against Lokomotiv in Moscow, beaten Raith 2-0 in Scotland and Benfica 3-1 in Lisbon.

In the fifth minute Klinsmann came off a defender at the far post and rose to meet Strumz's deep centre from the right, threatening a repetition of his early goal in Munich. This time, however, Chettle headed clear.

Thereafter, with Forest prepared to break swiftly and urgently, switching the ball from wing to wing and concentrating on achieving fast, accurate centres, Bayern spent much time in massed defence. Twice in four minutes Forest might have scored.

First Roy, gathering an awkward ball from Campbell, showed deft control but could produce only a weak shot when there was only Kahn to



Hand-to-mouth stuff... Forest's Colin Cooper tries to contain the irrepressible Jürgen Klinsmann

PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENCE GRIFFITHS

beat. Then Pearce's well-struck shot through a ruck of bodies was cleared off the Bayern line by Strumz.

In between times Bart-Williams, Woan, Roy and Campbell had achieved a crisply coordinated movement that exposed the defence only for Campbell's cross to sail beyond Woan's reach. Nevertheless Forest were worrying Bayern with the pace and imagination of their football.

Midway through the first half Chettle outmopped the defence to reach Phillips's free kick and as the ball dropped

Cooper nipped in to head it over the bar. Having done well to make the chance the centre-back might have done better. By the 30th minute he was wishing he had.

There seemed little immediate danger for Forest after Cooper had fouled Klinsmann some 30 yards from goal, but at this level all free-kicks from that sort of range carry some sort of threat.

So it proved. In a well-practised move, Klinsmann moved out of the wall as Matthäus tapped the ball to Ziege. His shot was driven

low towards the right-hand corner of the net and Crossley appeared to have the ball covered, but somehow the Forest goalkeeper allowed it to slip through his grasp.

Ten minutes before half-time Cooper slid the ball past Kahn after Chettle had nodded down a centre from Lytle, but both Campbell and the scorer were offside.

By half-time the remainder of the tie was looking even more academic. In the 43rd minute, with Forest crowding their penalty area, Herzog fed a corner back obliquely to

Strumz, whose low drive took a sharp deflection beyond Crossley's reach.

Forest now had to score four times to reach the semi-finals, and the more they tried to get even one goal the more likely they were to leave themselves exposed at the back. Bayern simply relaxed and awaited their chance to strike again.

Five minutes past the hour Klinsmann met Scholl's centre with a header that was blunted by Chettle only to rebound to the German striker, who volleyed it past

Crossley with typical élan. Papin, starting his first senior game since October, got among the scorers when he headed in a cross from the right, then Klinsmann went round Crossley on a solo breakaway. It was all over bar the counting.

Nottingham Forest: Crossley; Lytle (Holland, 74min), Cooper, Chettle, Pearce, Stone, Phillips, Bart-Williams (McGregor, 64), Woan, Campbell (Lee, 84), Roy, Bayern: Matthias Kahn, Matthäus, Strumz (Frey, 60), Babbel, Helmer (Rauscher, 80), Ziege, Herzog, Papin, Klinsmann, Scholl. Referee: P. Coccorini (Italy).

## Clark's army taken to its simple limits



Martin Thorpe

**I**N WOAN kept a diary of Nottingham Forest's visit to Auxerre, which appeared in the match programme for the home leg of that Uefa Cup tie. Here are two entries.

"Alan Hill, the assistant manager, has watched Auxerre a couple of times and assured us they won't play any corners to the near post. He was absolutely... wrong."

"And: 'As we line up in the Auxerre tunnel just before the kick-off the skipper issues his rallying cry. Looking at the opposition, Stuart 'Oscar' Wilde' Pearce announces: 'You've got more heart than them, that's why you were born English'."

The squad that day included a Dutchman, a Frenchman, a Norwegian and a Scot.

It was just over a year after leaving the First Division that Forest found themselves in Europe, a field of conflict which would have defeated more experienced English teams. In fact it did.

Manchester United, Liverpool, Rangers, Leeds, Everton and Blackburn embarrassingly fell by the wayside. Forest suddenly found themselves flying the British flag, and the English Channel, alone.

And here was the double irony: it was precisely Forest's inexperience which lay behind their durability. While England's fancier clans had walked into Europe with a bullish air, and been quickly deflated by teams versed in more refined arts, Forest were modest enough to acknowledge their limitations.

They had no illusions about the deep end they had fallen into. It was scary, and as a result their survival instinct emerged the sharpest of all.

**F**OREST'S voyage has been one of cautious discovery rather than conquering zeal. There has been no map to steer by, and few stars either after the sale of Collymore and Beinhorn. But the journey was sustained by an innate belief in the undervalued cliché that every game could be taken as it came.

The first tie in Malmo proved the turning point. For Forest too fell into the trap of

trying to be too bullish in that early game and were lucky to escape with a 2-1 defeat. "We realised we couldn't be that gung-ho," said Steve Stone.

In the end Liverpool and Stan United were and paid the price. We learned we had to be prepared to soak up the pressure and defend.

Clark heeded a voice that had nagged in his ear from his playing days at Forest, espousing a limited but highly effective recipe for success in Europe. "Sit back, young man, soak up the pressure, then hit them on the break." It won Brian Clough two European Cups.

It is not pretty to watch but it made sense, given the modest quality of Clark's squad. The downside was that it led to some nervy nights. Forest defended for 85 minutes in Auxerre, clearing the ball off the line no fewer than four times.

Television later revealed that one actually crossed the line, which showed what luck Forest enjoyed as well, until last night. For instance, it was not until the quarter-finals that they finally drew one of the top teams in the tournament.

So nearly all Forest's games have been back-to-the-Trent stuff, with Crossley saving (although he was at fault for Bayern's first away goal), Chettle and Cooper clearing, the midfield holding and Pearce inspiring.

**I**F THERE is one area in which Forest have really looked limited it is up front. But the team's collective energy, spirit and stubbornness have papered over even those cracks. Such qualities are a testament to the management powers of Clark, who has turned Forest into a model of himself: relaxed, friendly, modest, but spiced with a strong professionalism and dogged self-belief. This is why he is so highly regarded among those choosing the next England manager.

Of course a player's life on the European road is only fleetingly heroic. For the most part it comprises long days spent in hotels waiting in bored tedium for the contrasting excitement of the night's big game. Woan and Stone, who room together, were so bored barracked up in Auxerre that they watched the whole of Jurassic Park... in French.

There is the umpteenth duty-free shop to visit for the umpteenth gift for the missus, the umpteenth in-flight card school, the umpteenth queue for passport control. Life can be monotonous. But nobody at Forest would have wanted to be anywhere else. It has been one hell of an adventure.

## Illingworth challenged

**David Foot** on a move to replace the chairman of selectors

**D**AVID GRAVENEY yesterday emerged as a major threat to Ray Illingworth as England's chairman of selectors. His name was put forward by Warwickshire and seconded by Surrey, and other counties seem sure to back the move.

Warwickshire argue that the 63-year-old Illingworth, who is keen to continue until the end of the season, is too old for the job and that a different approach would motivate the team and lift morale.

Nominations close today: if none had been received Illingworth would have remained in the post. A postal ballot of the counties will follow, with the result being known early next week.

Illingworth has been promised the support of his native Yorkshire, whose chief executive Chris Hassell said: "We strongly supported his appointment initially so we feel we are now being consistent. We don't think this is the time for a

change." But he added enigmatically: "Whether Ray continues as manager is another matter."

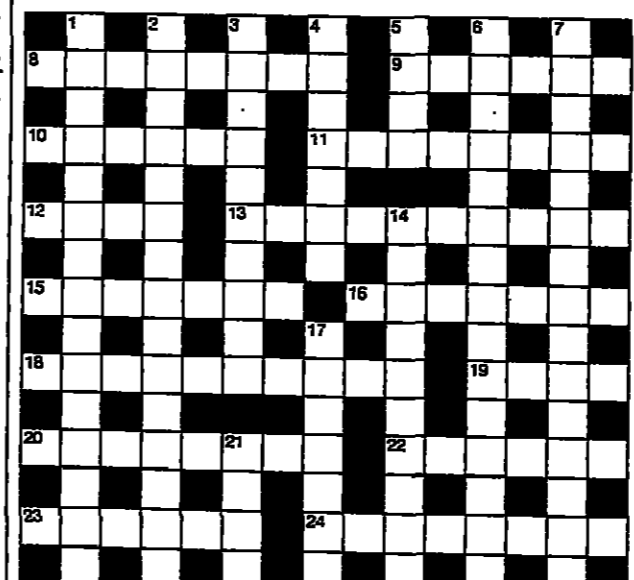
Illingworth's position as team manager is to be discussed by the TCCB's executive committee on Tuesday, and younger men such as David Lloyd of Lancashire and John Banbury of Northamptonshire have been linked with the job.

Warwickshire's chief executive Dennis Amis, who feels that a change of chairman is needed before the season starts, said: "We are crying out for renewed enthusiasm and an innovative approach. We don't believe in the concept of a supremo; the England team needs someone younger, someone just retired from the game, as chairman."

"David Graveney fills this role. He has experience and we see no conflict at all with his duties as secretary of the Professional Cricketers' Association. Indeed, there would be more advantages than disadvantages." A former Gloucestershire and Durham captain who also played a season at Somerset, Graveney, now 43 and a part-time accountant, is understood to have been happy for his name to be put forward.

## Guardian Crossword No 20,605

Set by Araucaria

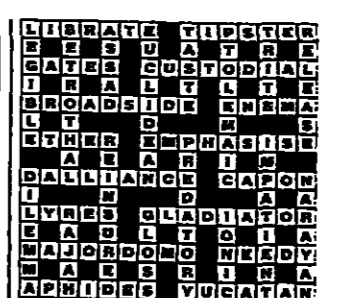


### Across

- 8 Derbyshire town provides the odd loan without anxiety (9)
- 9 Offered up like oranges (5)
- 10 Vegetable for the North country (5)
- 11 Stake with which to confront a Caucasian (8)
- 12 Island giving backing to Guardian readers (4)
- 13 Note on creation of "After Eden" at open air social (6,4)
- 15 Sound of fall beside slot machine (7)
- 16 Work to make a drug if I go in for the sovereign (7)
- 18 The British people, for example, is on a country run (6,4)
- 19 Tilt away from the toe (4)
- 20 What Elizabeth Bennet did

### Down

- 1 Facing like the tortoise, bird that's wise in cunning upset Brutus at city (6,3,5)
- 2 New Orleans beat Nazi lad at Ritz: OJ involved (11,4)
- 3 Watch over the flag without half the guns (5,5)
- 4 Uplift in part of church (7)
- 5 Vote for parrot (4)
- 6 A romantic, holding forth among walkers to the South, composes an opera (1,4,3,4)



### CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,604

1 Facing like the tortoise, bird that's wise in cunning upset Brutus at city (6,3,5)  
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6 A romantic, holding forth among walkers to the South, composes an opera (1,4,3,4)

- 7 Don't digress or get the wrong end? (5,2,3,5)
- 14 Charge for fast carriage and say how old you are (10)
- 17 Mate decadent Rome with capital to the South? (7)
- 21 River on board? (4)

**Solution tomorrow**  
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